FJH PIANO TEACHING LIBRARY

GIFTS OF ASIA

FOLK MUSIC FROM CHINA, JAPAN, KOREA, AND TAIWAN

Compiled and arranged by Emilie Lin

LATE ELEMENTARY/EARLY INTERMEDIATE

THE F·J·H MUSIC COMPANY INC.
Frank J. Hackinson

Emilie Lin

Emilie Lin shares her love of music through piano teaching, performing, composing, and arranging. Her goal as a composer and arranger is to create exciting, engaging pieces that make the process of learning and teaching music a fun and joyful adventure. As an independent music educator and cognitive psychologist, Emilie fosters her students' love of music by customizing curriculum according to each student's learning style, interests, and developmental stage. Guiding her students to become more conscientious during the learning process is also central to her teaching.

A *magna cum laude* from Carleton College, Emilie graduated with distinction in psychology and honors in music performance. In addition to her master's degree and Ph.D. degree in cognitive psychology from the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) with University Fellowship, Emilie has a master's degree in piano performance with full scholarship from the University of Michigan. She has won concerto competitions at both Carleton College and the University of Michigan.

Emilie is a member of the Music Teachers National Association and has served as an adjudicator in local student events. She currently resides in Michigan with her husband, Greg McConville, and two sons, Peter and Ethan.

THE F·J·H MUSIC COMPANY INC.
Frank J. Hackinson

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FJH2091

FJH Piano Teaching Library

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Compiled and arranged by Emilie Lin

LATE ELEMENTARY/EARLY INTERMEDIATE

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Production Coordinators: Peggy Gallagher and Satish Bhakta
Editors: Robert Schultz and Edwin McLean
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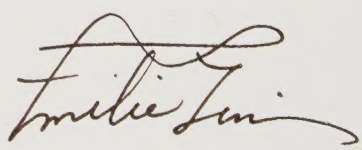
Notes from the Composer

Since 2002, the Michigan Taiwanese American Organization (MiTAI) has sponsored an annual Taiwanese Music Festival in which a select group of pre-college students perform Taiwanese folk music. I personally participated in the Festival a few times, both as an audience member and as a judge, and the idea of sharing my birth country's folk music with other students in the United States and beyond has been very appealing to me. However, the published music that I was aware of was beyond the grasp of typical students. When I approached FJH about creating simpler piano arrangements of Taiwanese folk songs, they quickly and enthusiastically embraced the idea, and requested that I include folk songs from China, Japan, and Korea as well. Thus, the project "Gifts of Asia" was born.

During my research and compilation for this publication, I decided not to include lyrics for all the folk songs because much meaning can be lost in the translation process, and it is difficult to translate many of these songs verse for verse. Accordingly, I opted to include a simple summary relating the substance of each song.

It is my hope that "Gifts of Asia" will introduce you and the western world to some of the best-loved Asian folk tunes. With a relatively broad range of musical expression and mood, I believe students and teachers alike will find many pieces that resonate in their hearts and souls.

"Gifts of Asia" could not have been completed without the help of these people: Christopher and Yuki Harding, Hyewoon Lim, Sunny Chapel, Mrs. In-Joo Yoon, Yukiko Meldrum, Hui-Hsuan Chao, J. P. Zhang, Julie Chen, Amy Zhang, Jin Choi, Lubin Zhuang, Robert Schultz, my husband Greg McConville, and my parents. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your support and suggestions.



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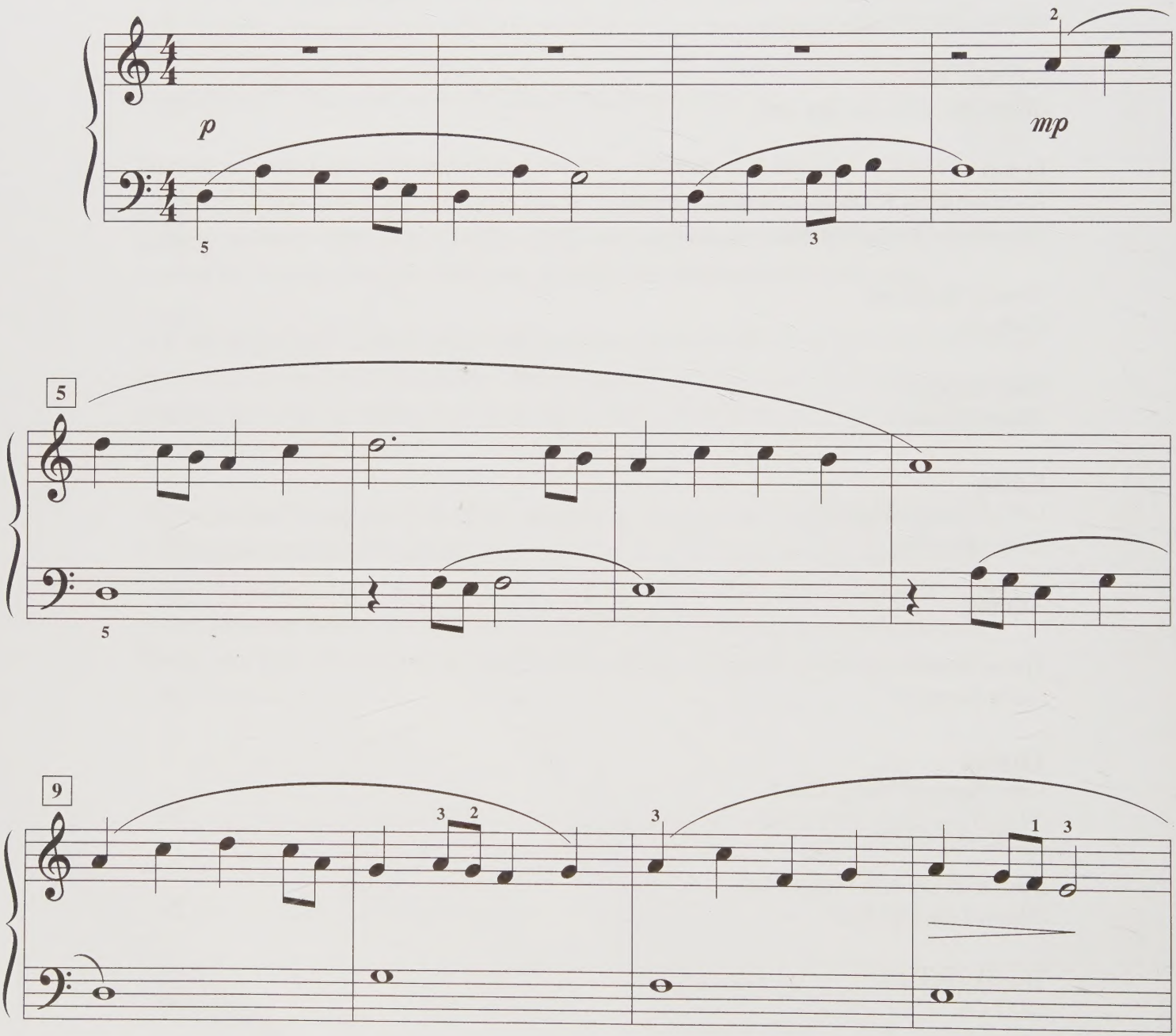
At a Far Away Place

(Zai Na Yao Yuan De Di Fang)

This song is about someone longing for a popular young woman (from a far away place) whom many people love.

Chinese Folk Song
from Qinghai Province

With a sense of longing (♩ = ca. 92)



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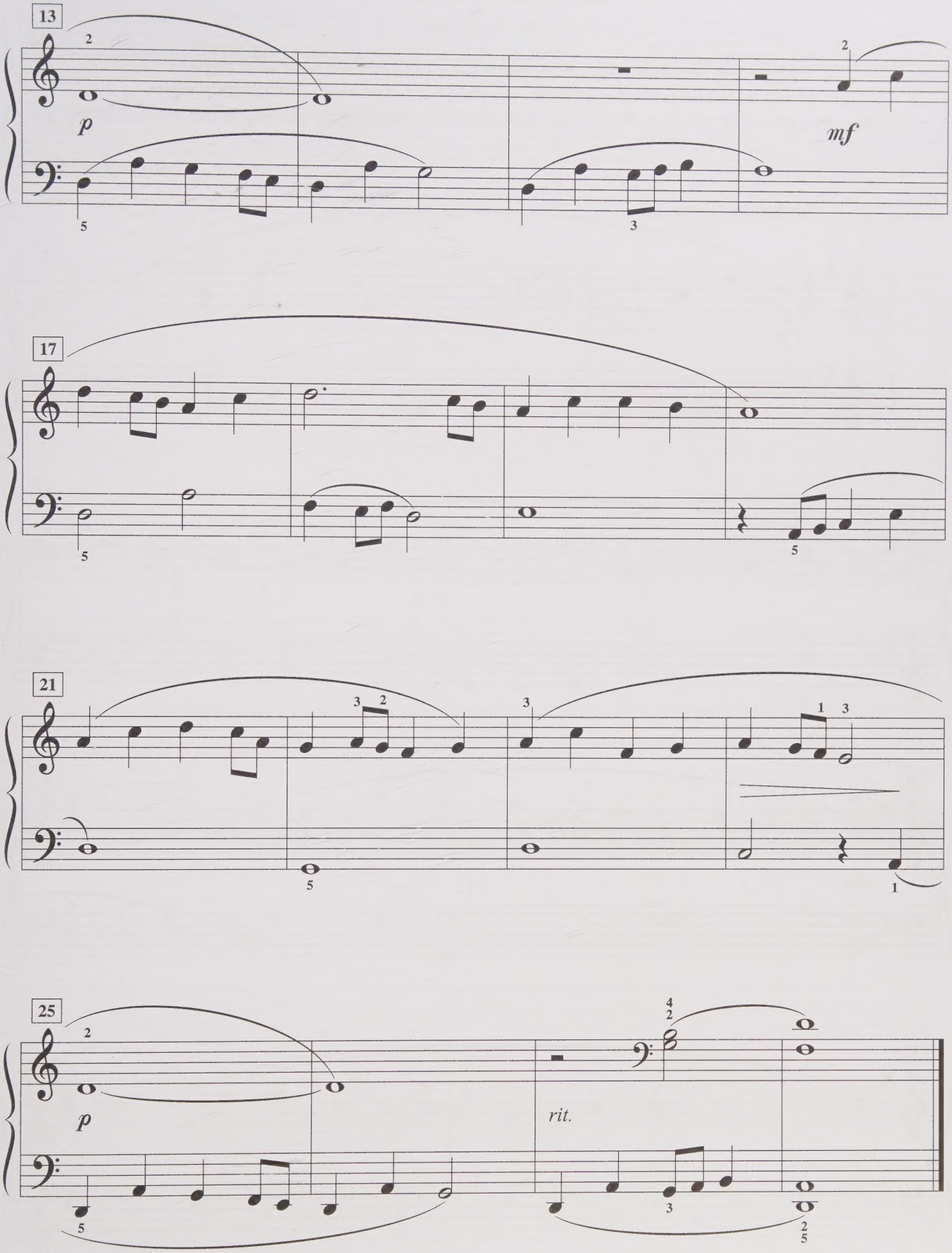
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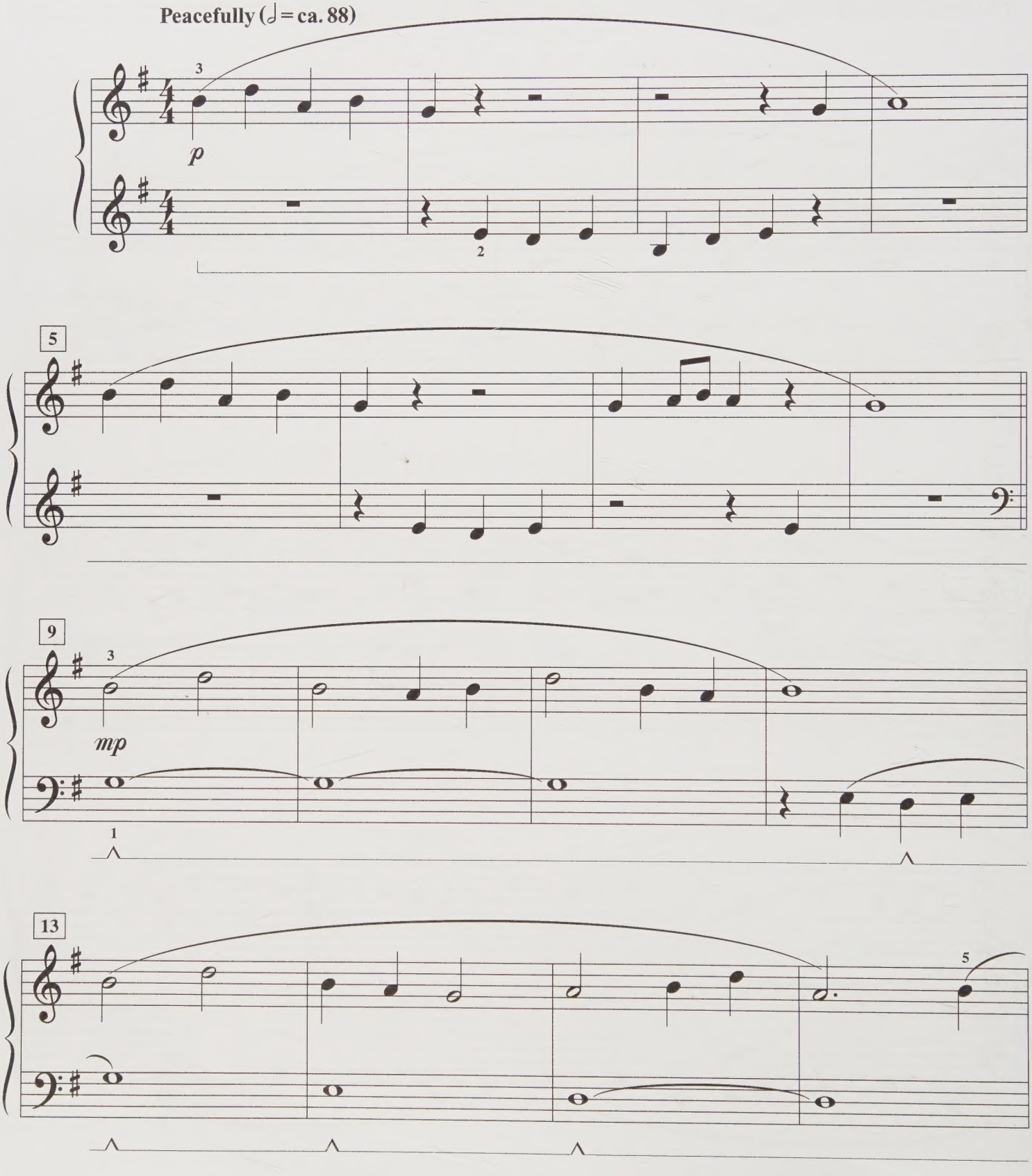
Boat of Tai Lake

(Tai Hu Chuan)

This song describes a scene in which a boat sails on Tai Lake near sunset.
At first there is a feeling of stillness, evoked by a mountain and transparent water.
Then comes the wind—making the reflections on the lake, including the shadow of the moon, vibrate.

Chinese Folk Song

Peacefully (♩ = ca. 88)



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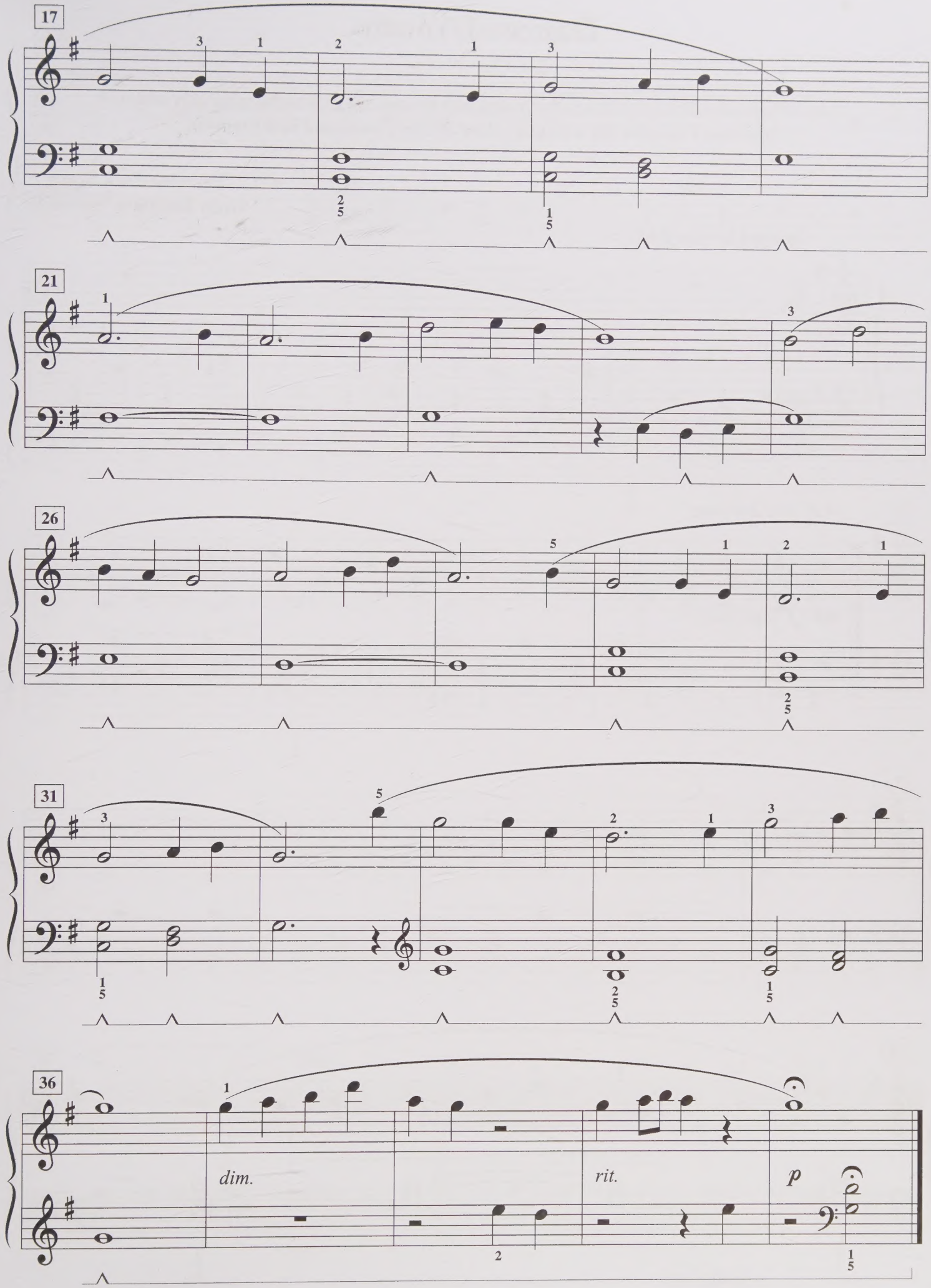
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rit.
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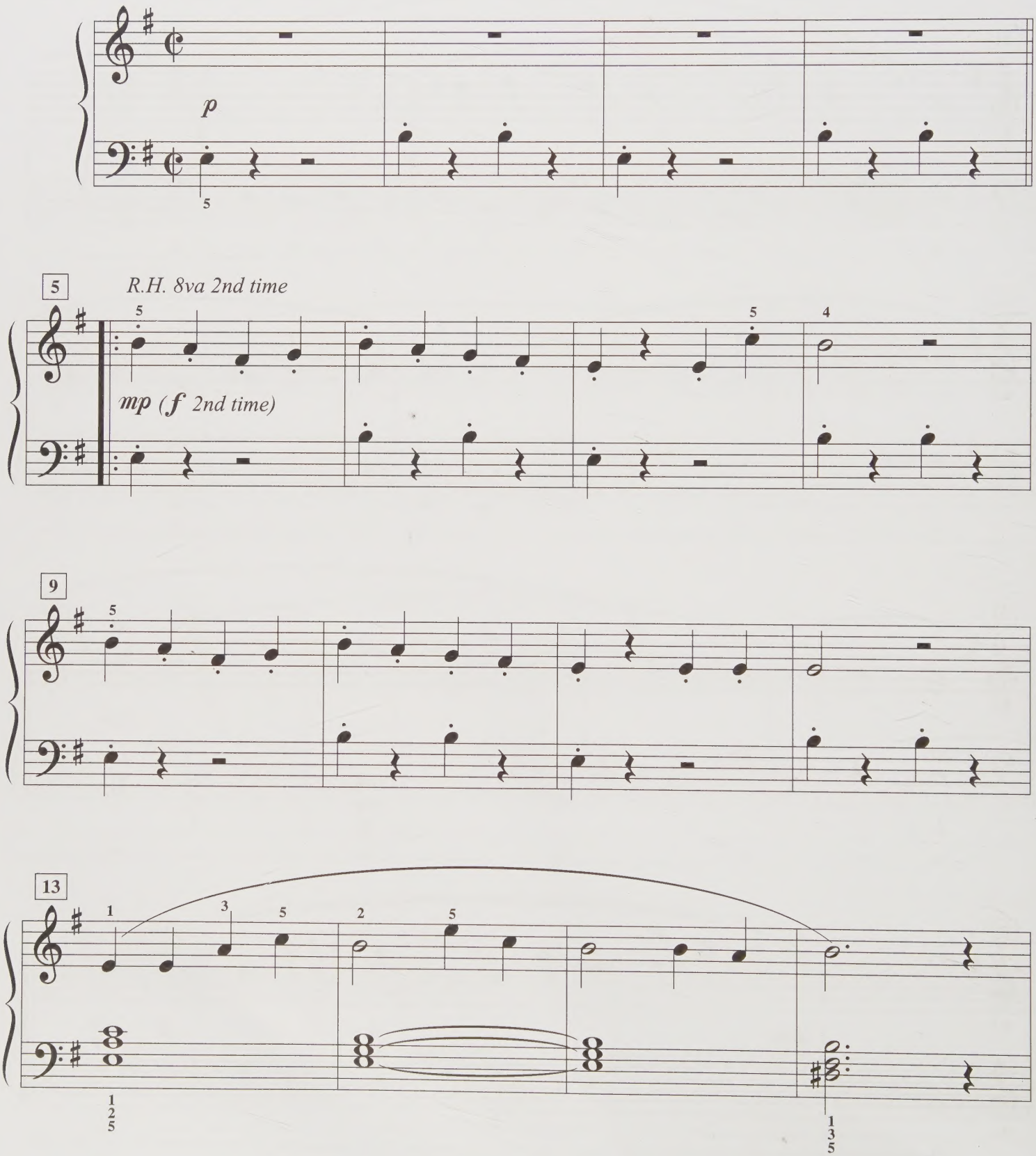
Dance of Youth

(Qing Chun Wu Qu)

Even though the sun always rises after it sets, and flowers can still bloom after they wither,
a person's youth is like a beautiful bird that flies away and never returns.

Chinese Folk Song
from Xinjiang Province

Spirited (♩ = ca. 116)



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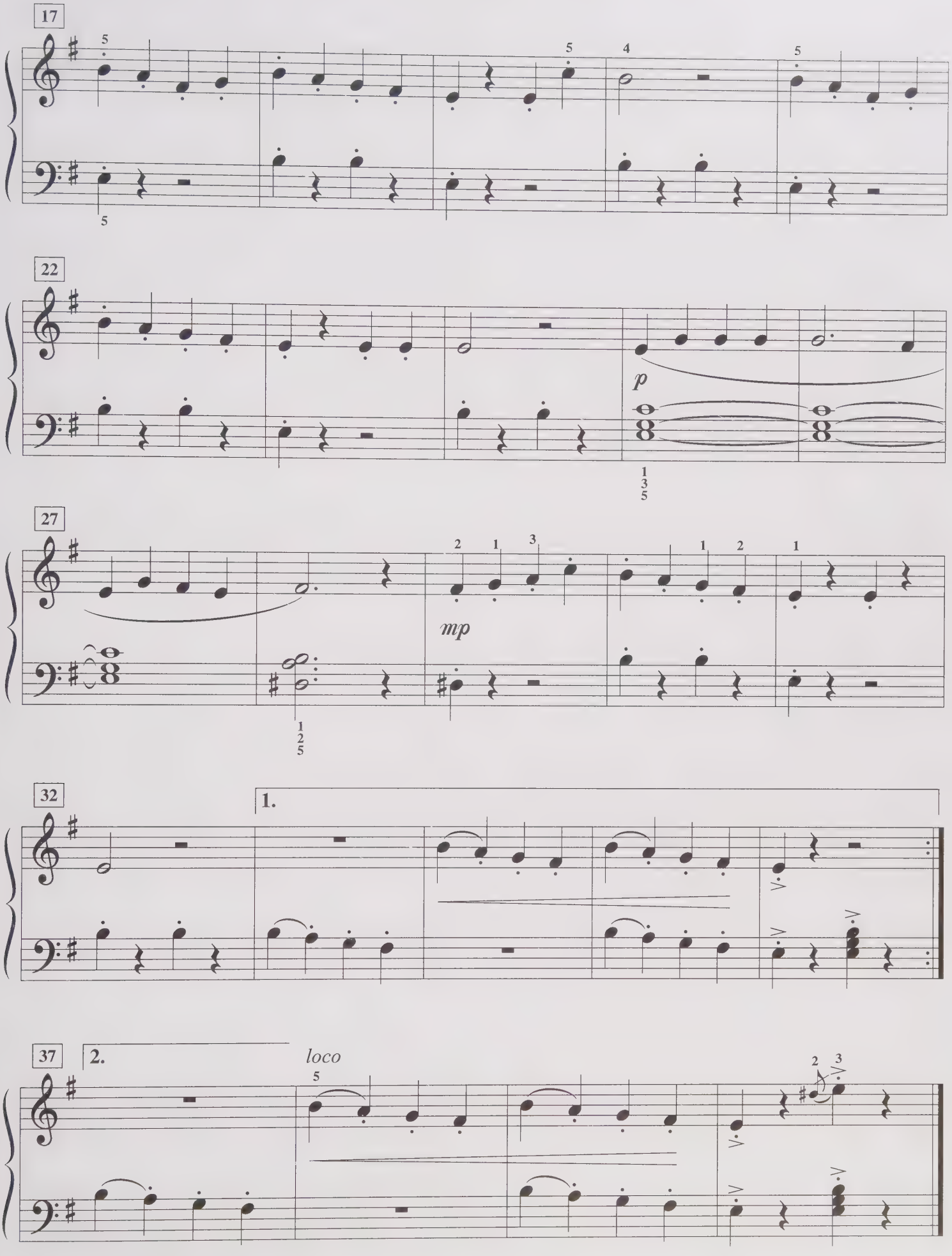
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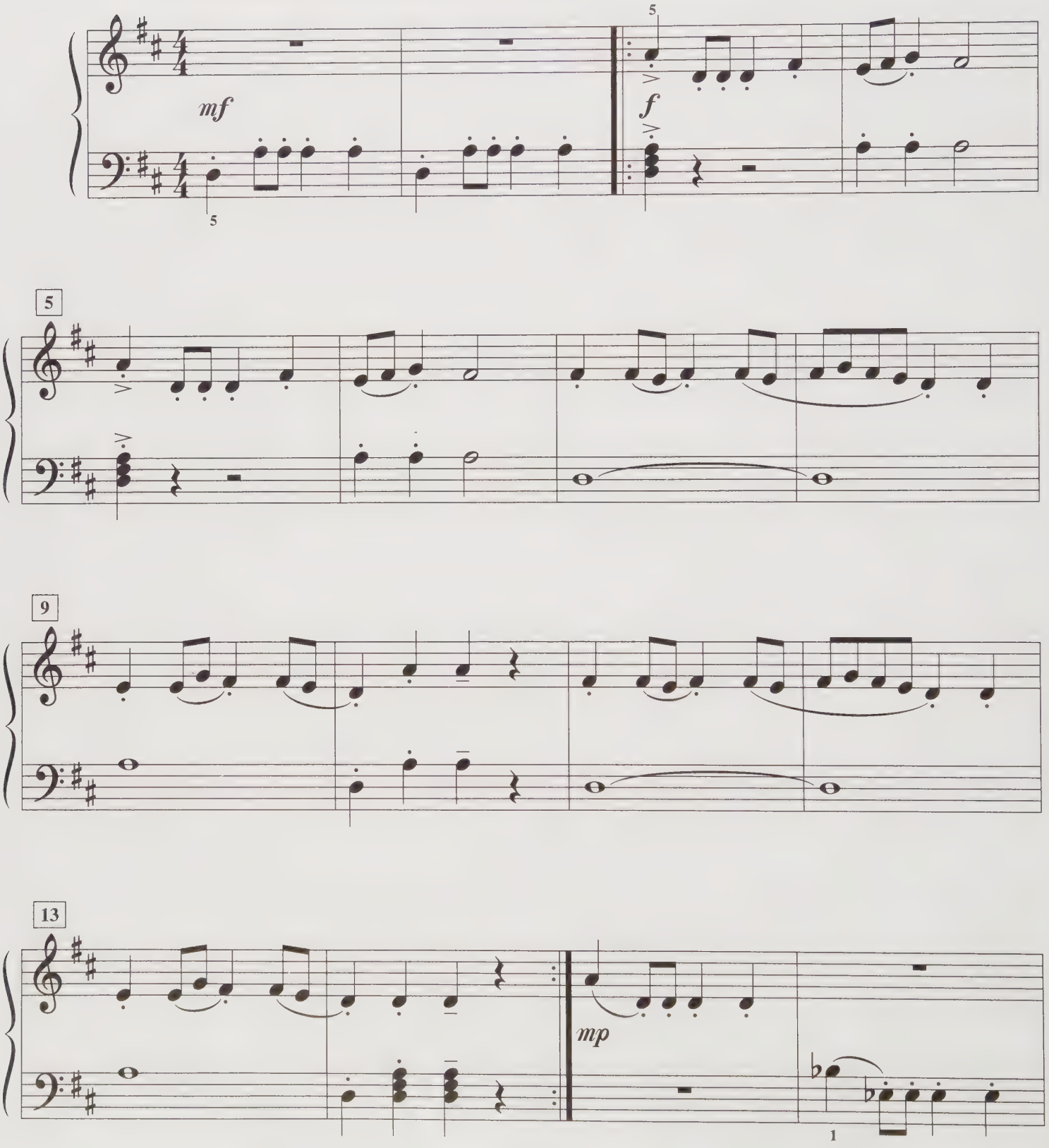
Lift Your Veil

(Xian Qi Ni De Gai Tou Lai)

A man asks a young woman to lift her veil so that he may see her face. Her face is round like a red apple, her eyebrows are long and curvy like a crescent moon, and her mouth is like a small red cherry.

Chinese Folk Song
from Xinjiang Province

With energy and vibrance (♩= ca. 144)



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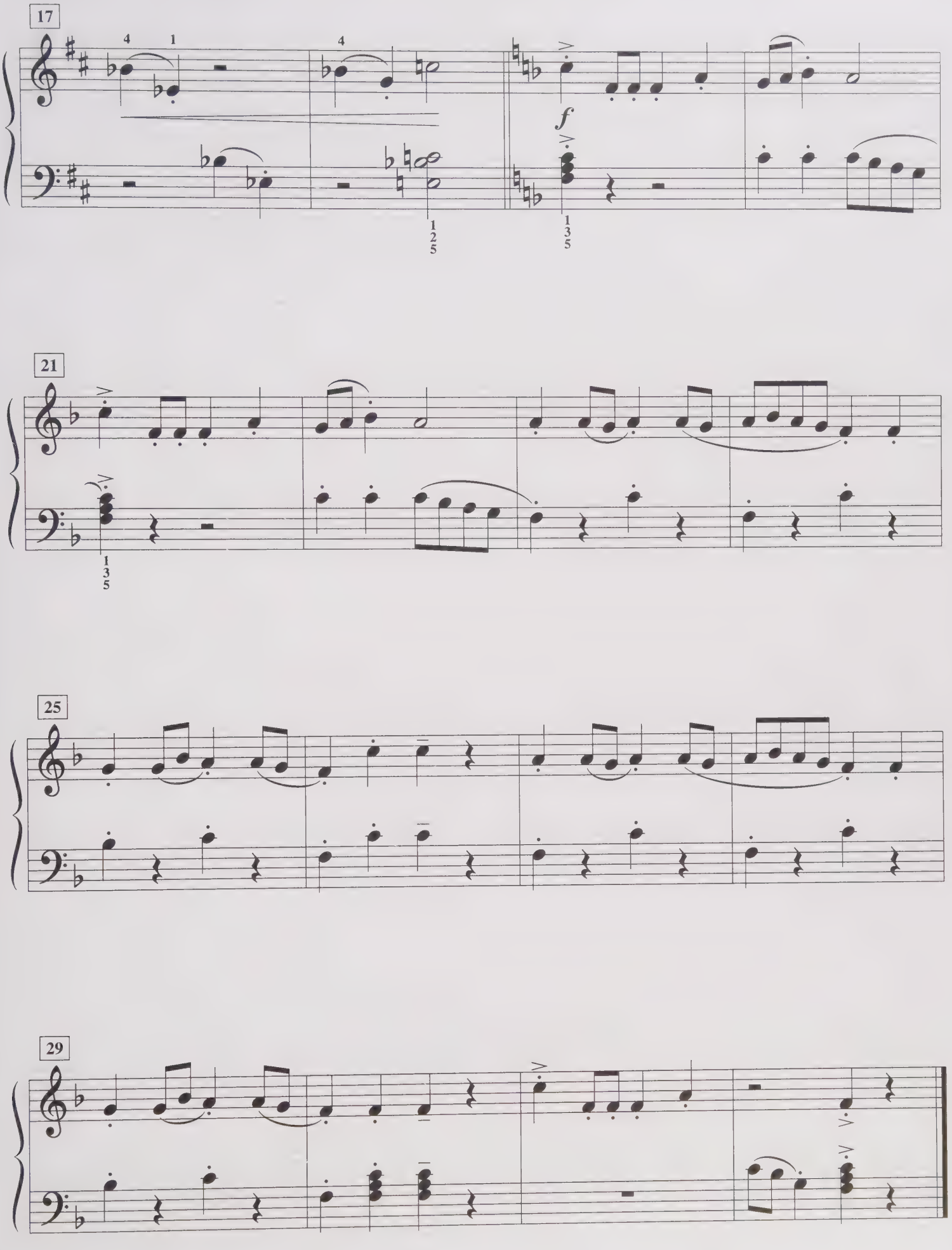
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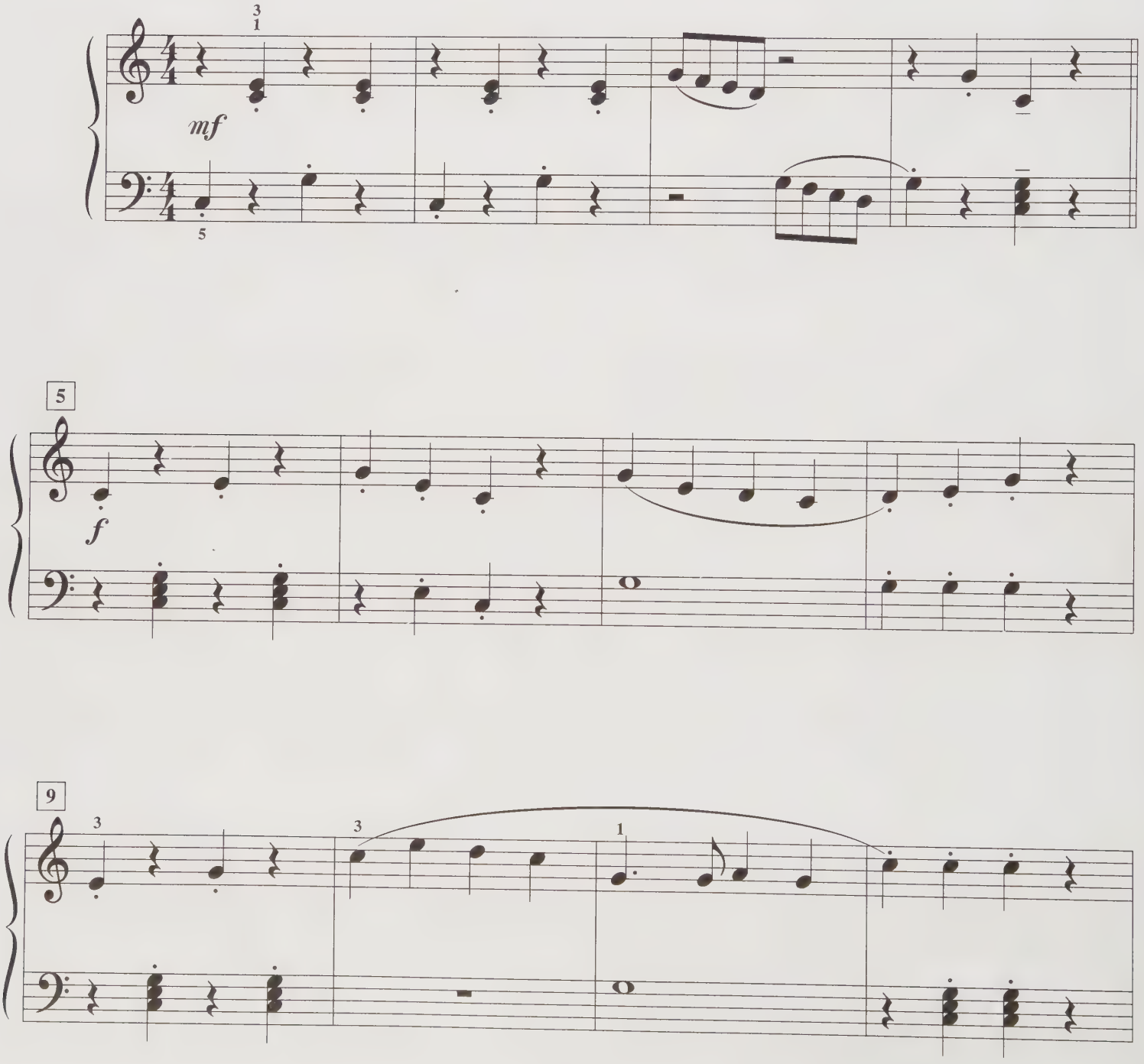
Raccoon Dog Festival at Shojoji Temple

(Shojoji no Tanuki Bayashi)

Japanese folk stories about tanuki (raccoon dogs) often include comical elements. For example, a tanuki can take various forms (such as that of a man or woman) that bewitch humans. This particular song describes how on a moonlit night, a group of tanuki appears in the garden of a temple and plays drumming music on their bellies—competing with the temple priest who is chanting a service while striking a wooden block.

Japanese Children's Song
Music by Shinpei Nakayama (1887-1952)
Lyrics by Ujo Noguchi (1882-1945)

With spirit (♩ = ca. 192)



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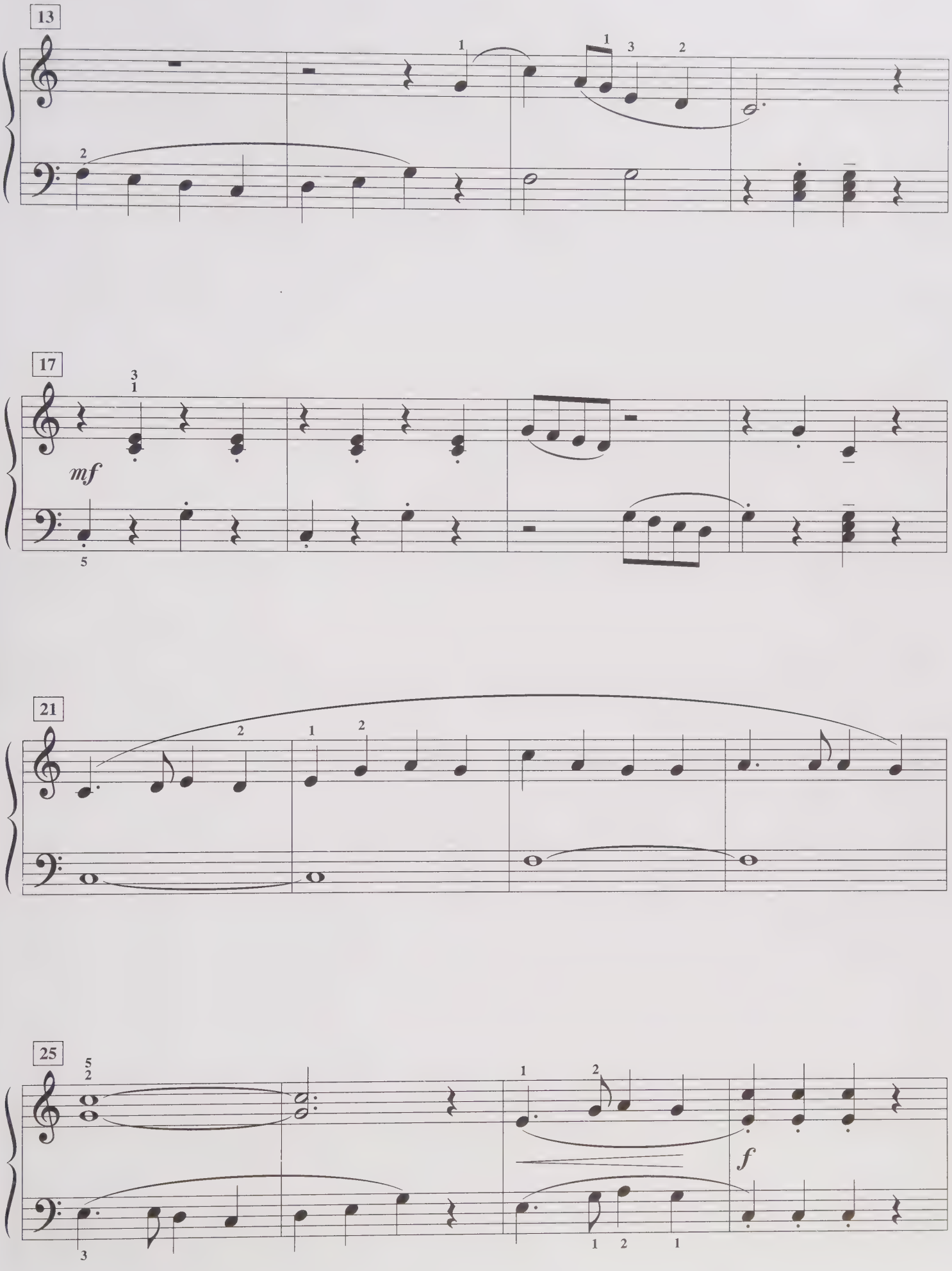
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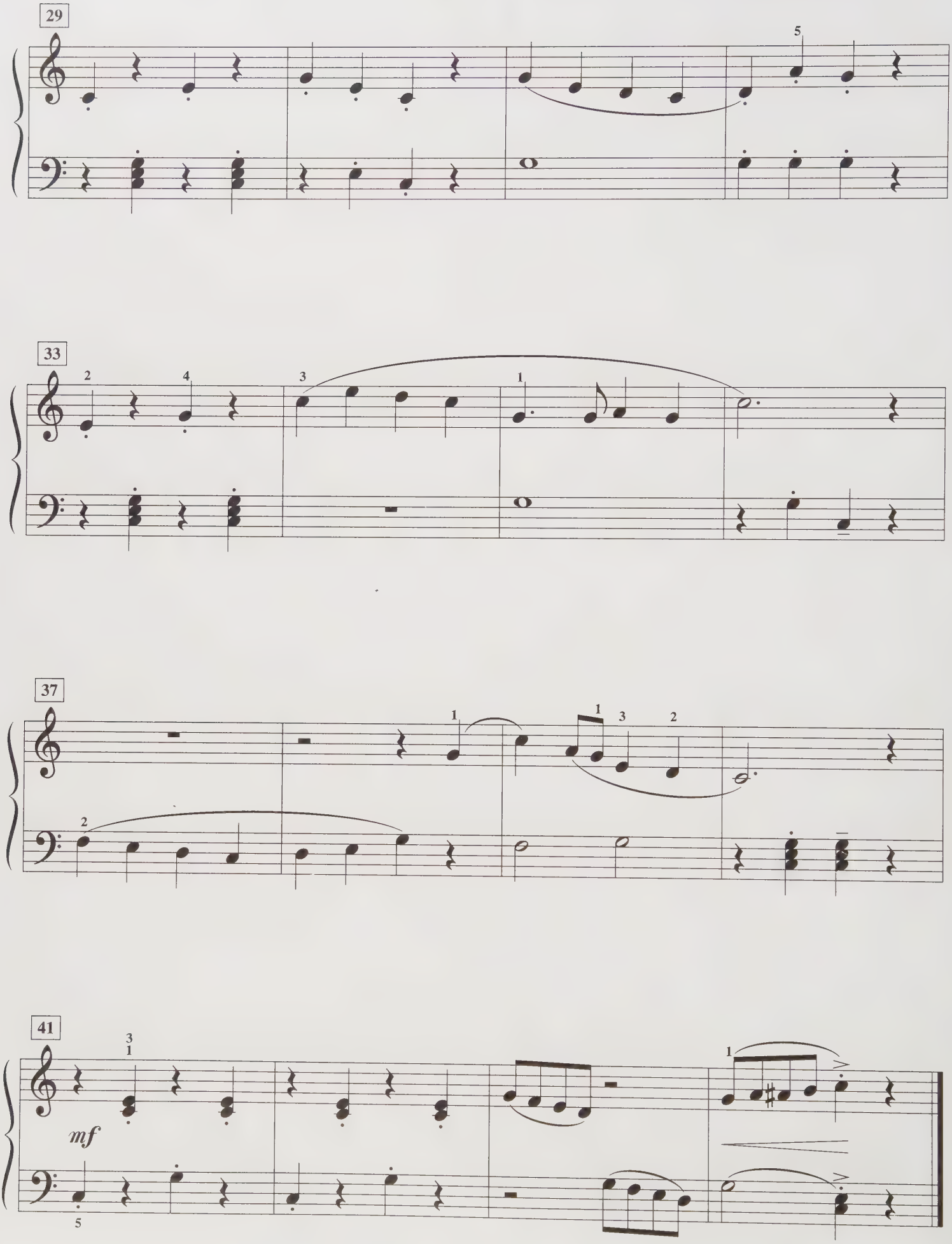
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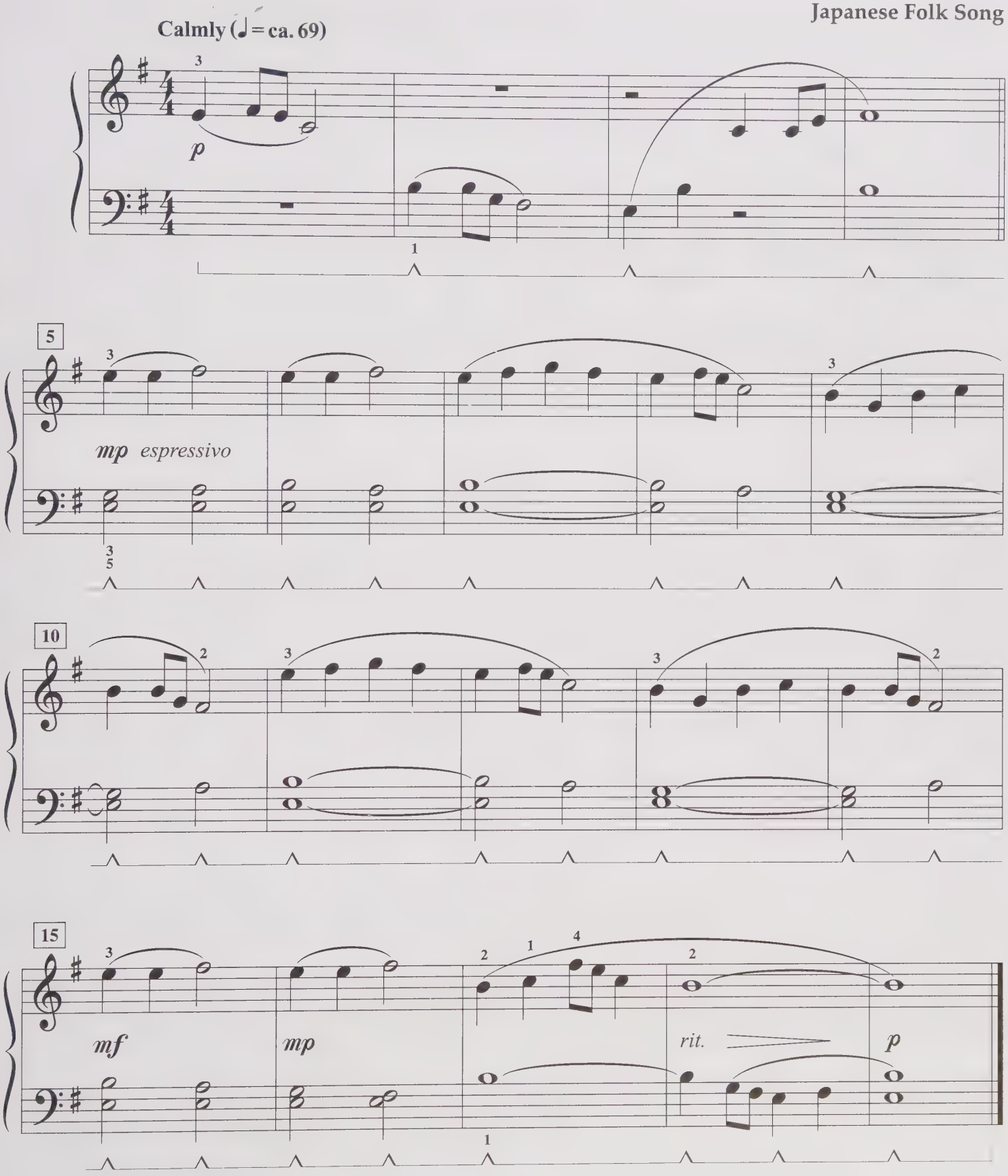
Cherry Blossoms

(Sakura)

The lyrics tell of a scene of cherry blossoms in full bloom in springtime. They describe the image as "a mist, or clouds," and also mention the flowers' fragrance. Such a spectacular view of the cherry blossoms can only inspire people to "come now and look" and admire its beauty.

Japanese Folk Song



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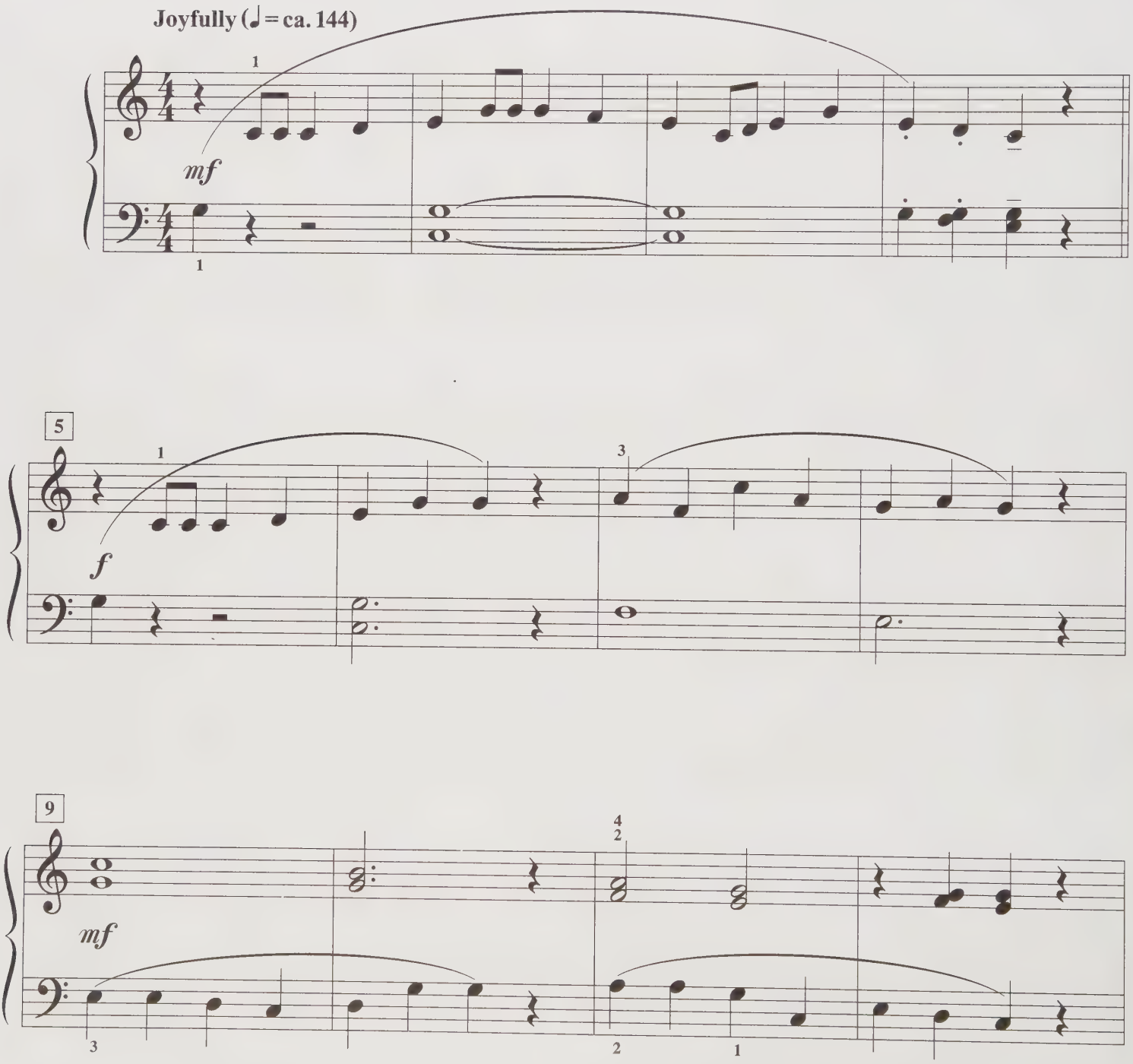
Soap Bubbles

(Shabondama)

The lyrics describe how some soap bubbles float upward while others pop and disappear quickly. There is a plea that asks the wind not to blow, so that the bubbles can drift higher and higher into the sky.

Japanese Children's Song
Music by Shinpei Nakayama (1887-1952)
Lyrics by Ujo Noguchi (1882-1945)



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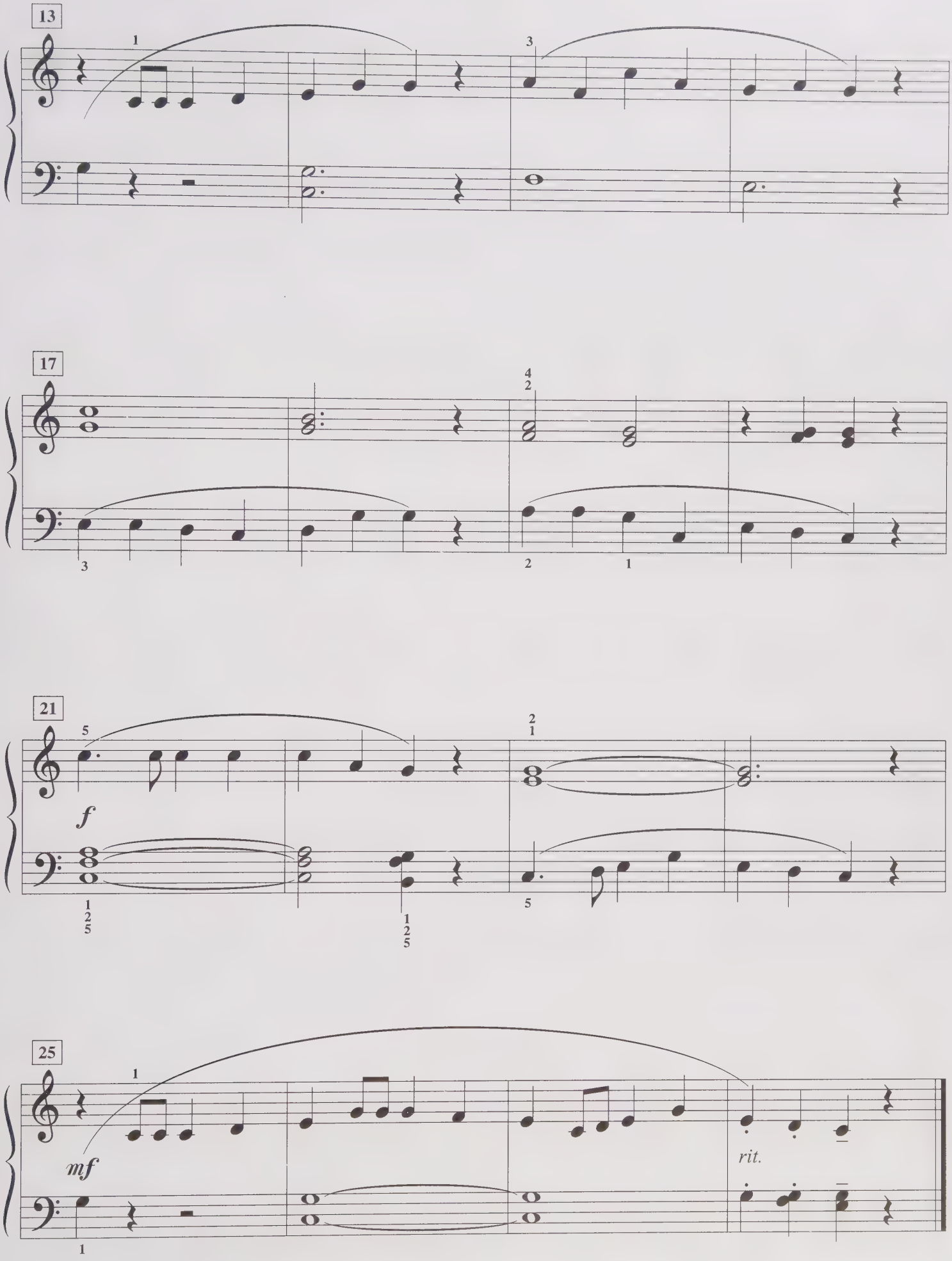
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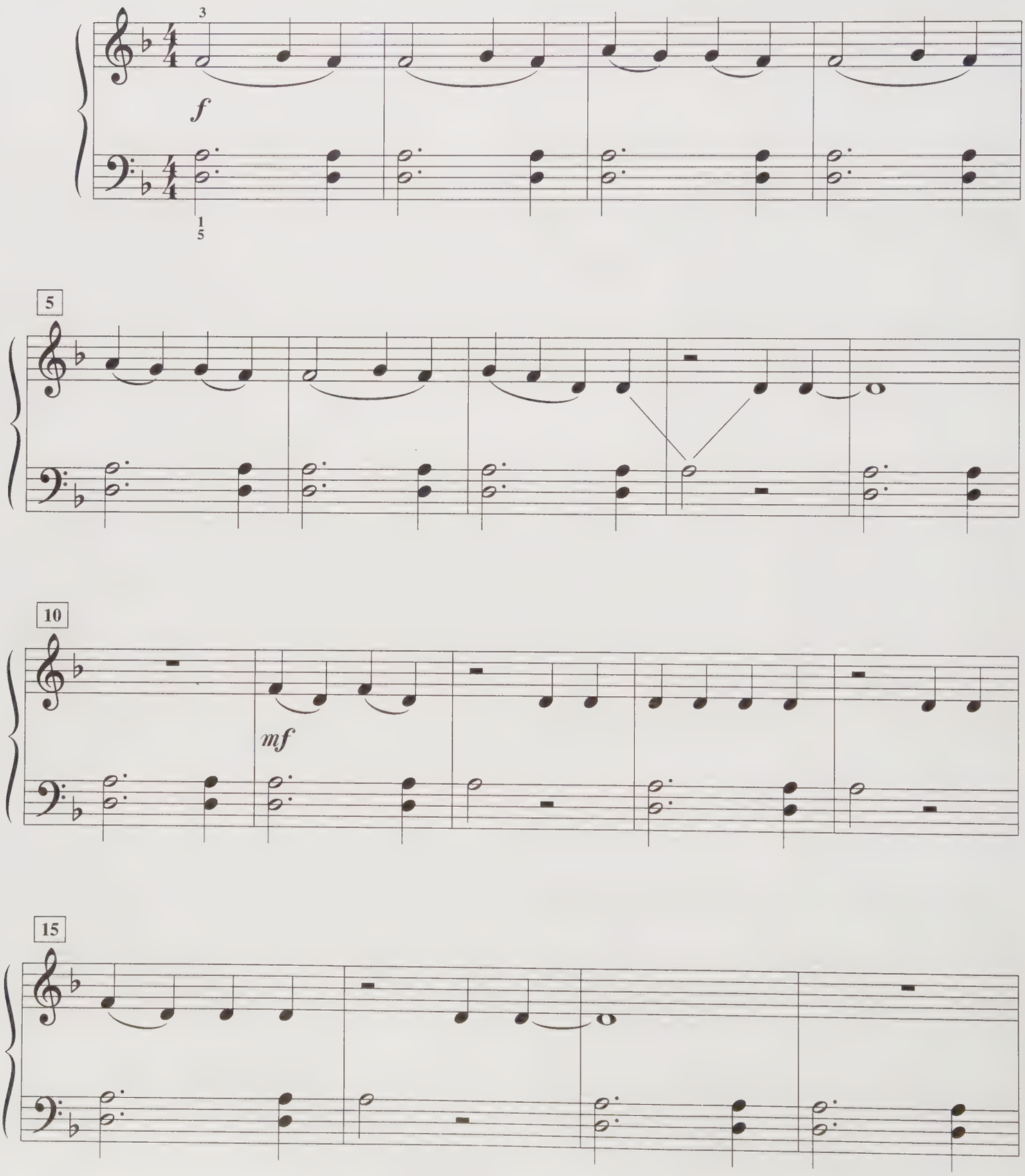
Let's Harvest, Hooray!

(Ong Hey Ah)

During the harvest, farmers sing this song and shout "Ong Hey Ah!" rhythmically, to energize each other and make the labor more enjoyable.

Korean Folk Song
from Kungsangdo Province

Lively (♩ = ca. 112)



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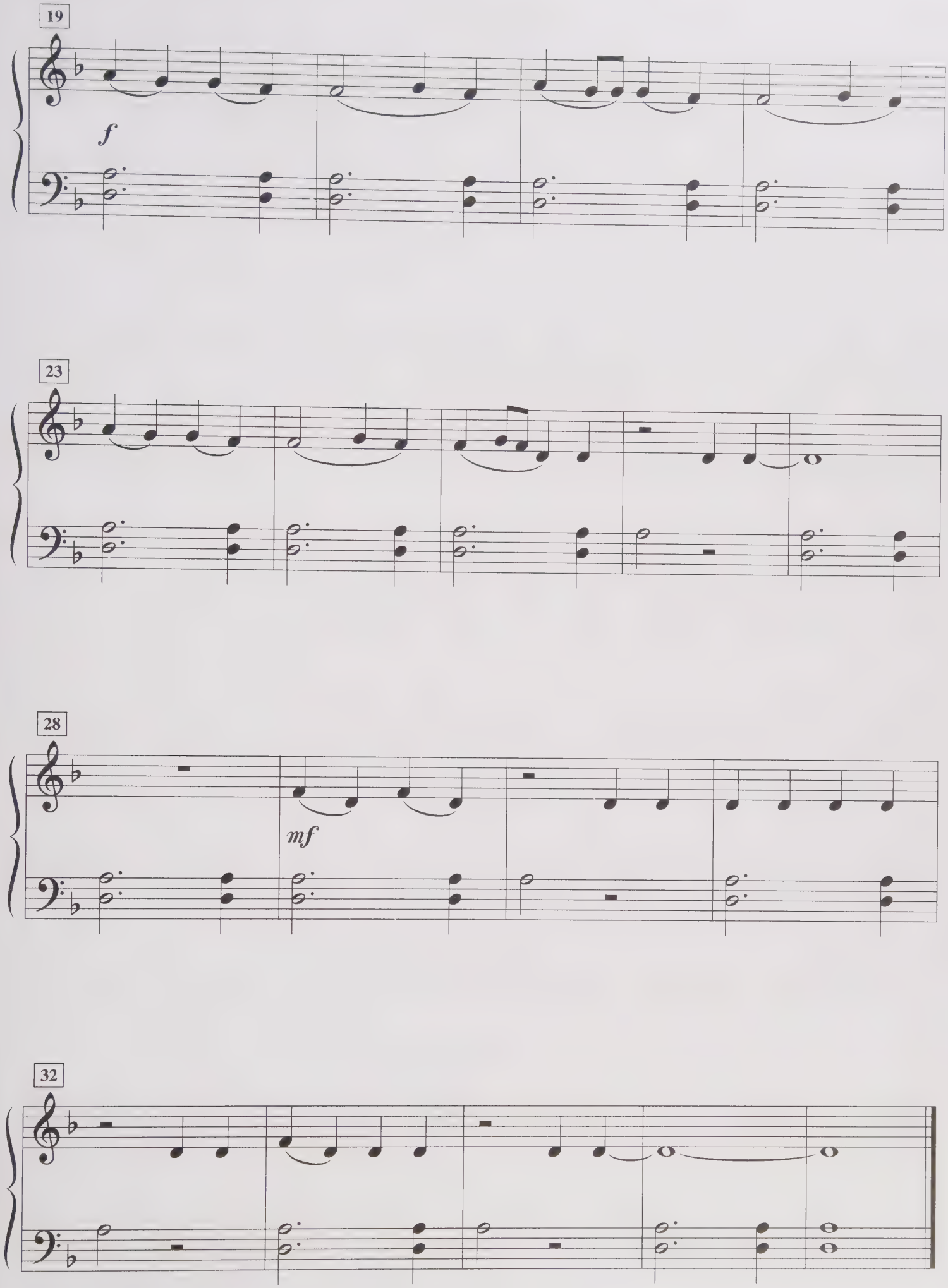
19
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mf
32

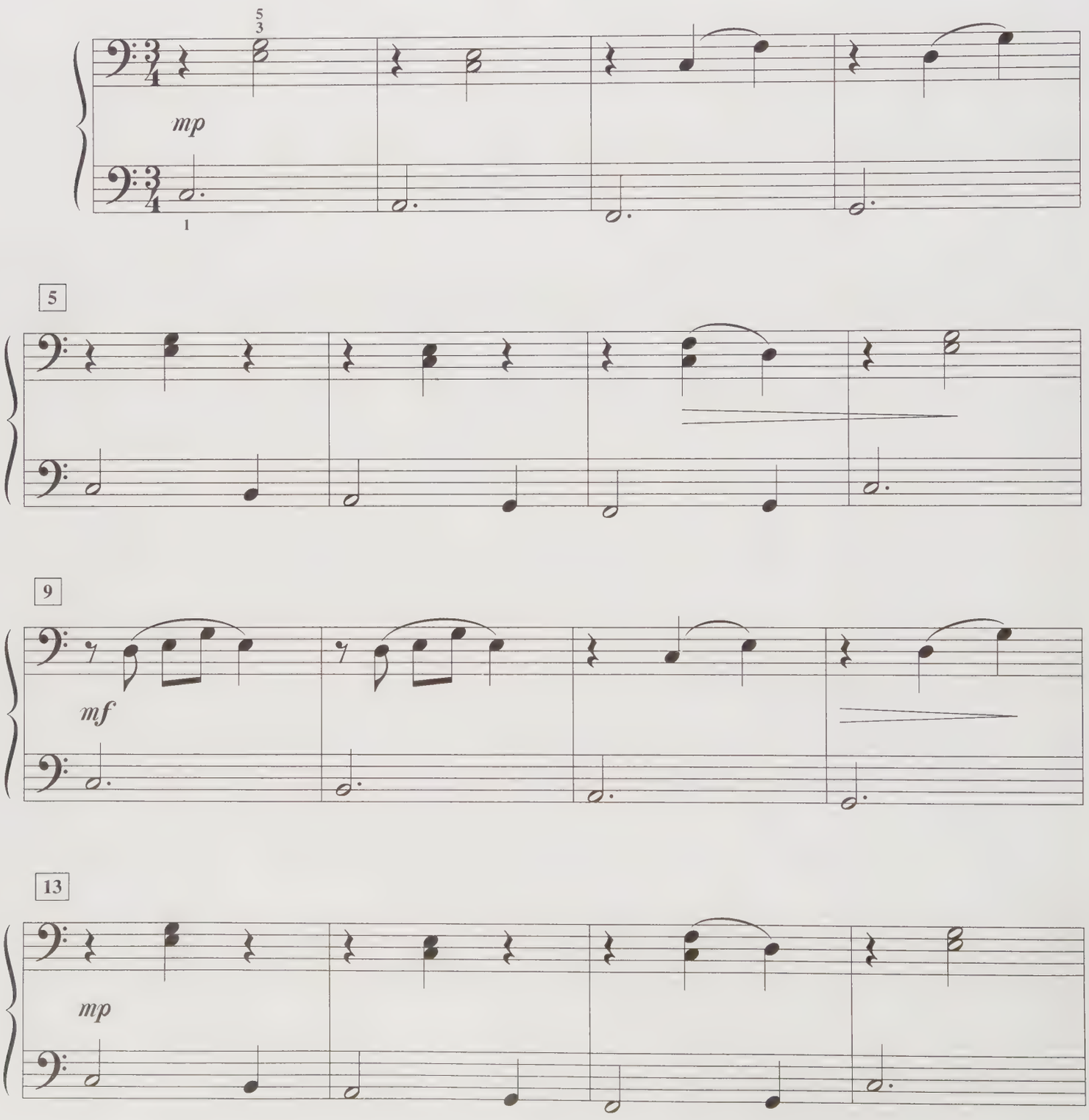
Arirang

This song, the most popular of several "Arirangs," comes from Kyonggi Province and is named after a small hill near Seoul. Other "Arirangs" have titles that begin with the name of their originating province or region such as "Kangwon Do Arirang," where "Do" means "Province."
This particular song, however, is typically referred to as "Arirang".

Secondo

Korean Folk Song
from Kyonggi Province

Moderately (♩ = ca. 104)



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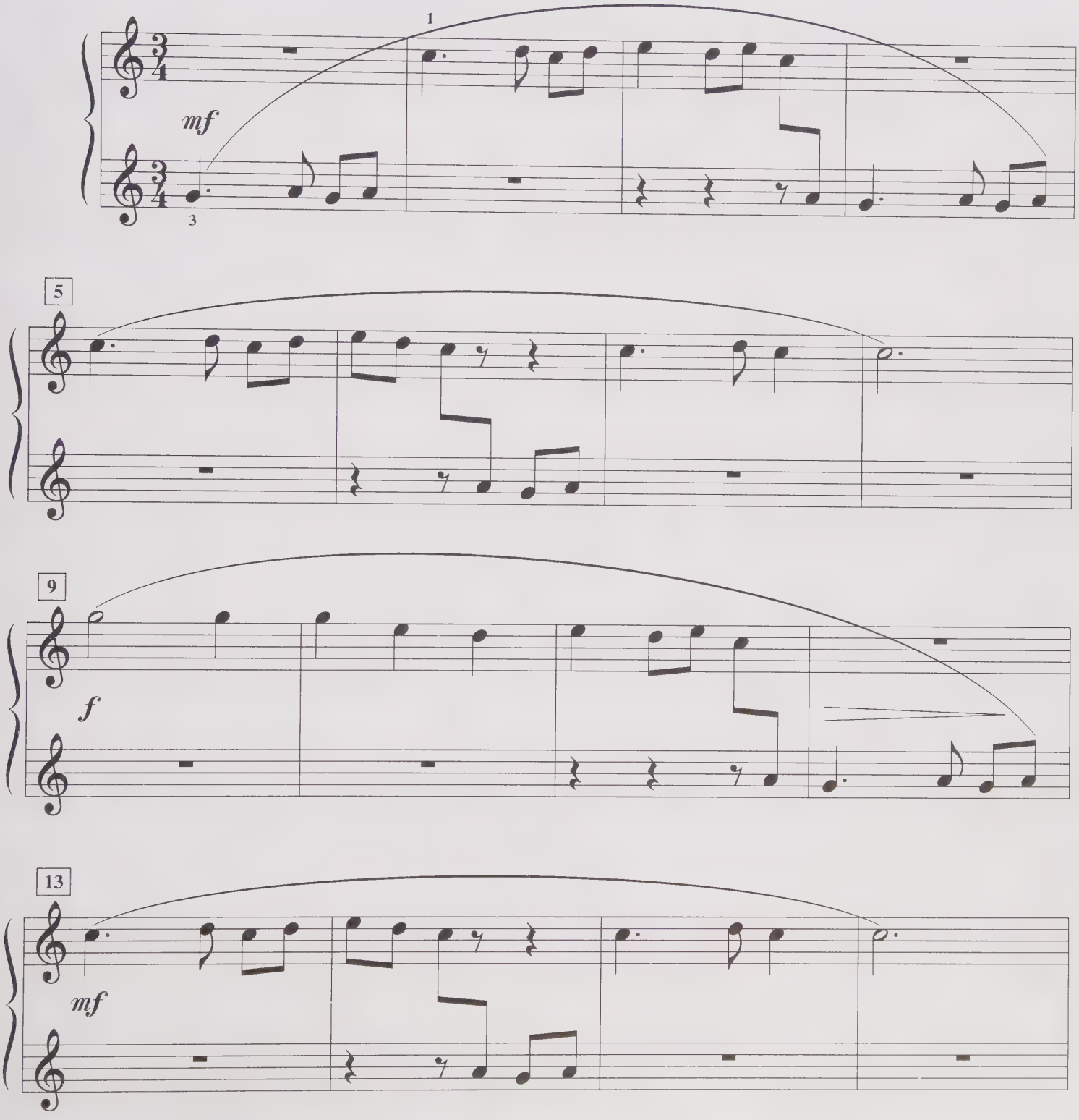
Primo

Korean Folk Song
from Kyonggi Province

Moderately (♩ = ca. 104)



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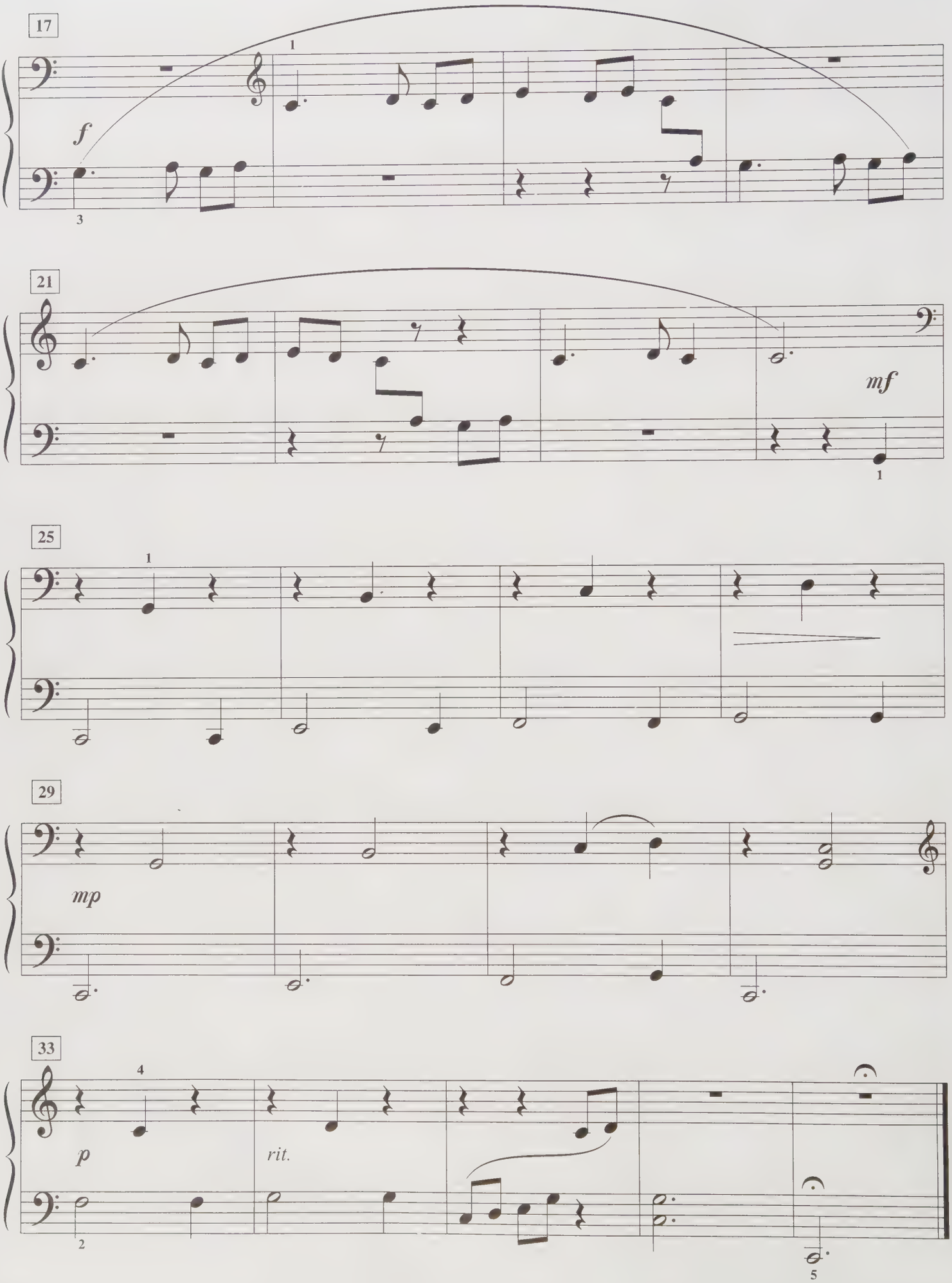
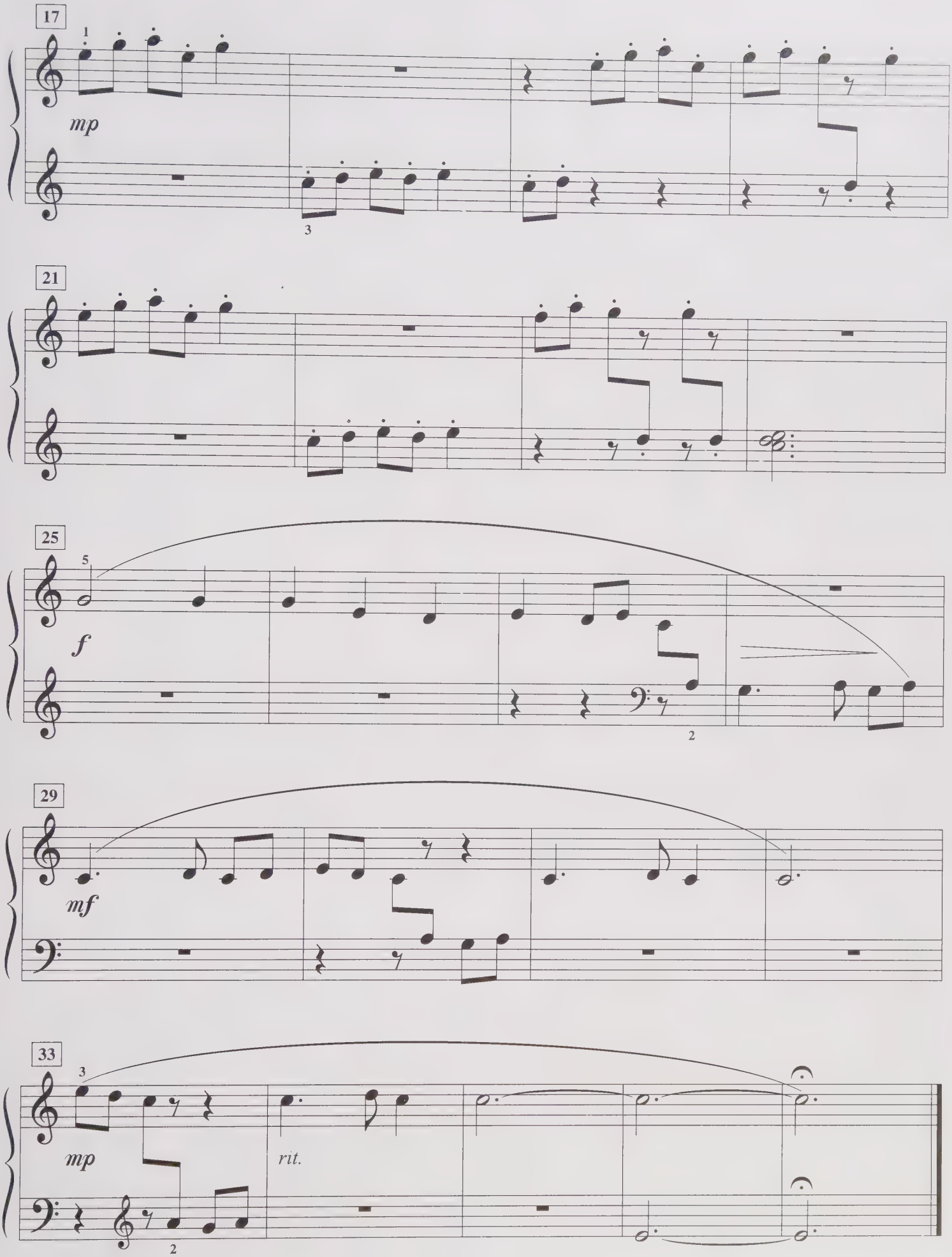
Secondo



Primo

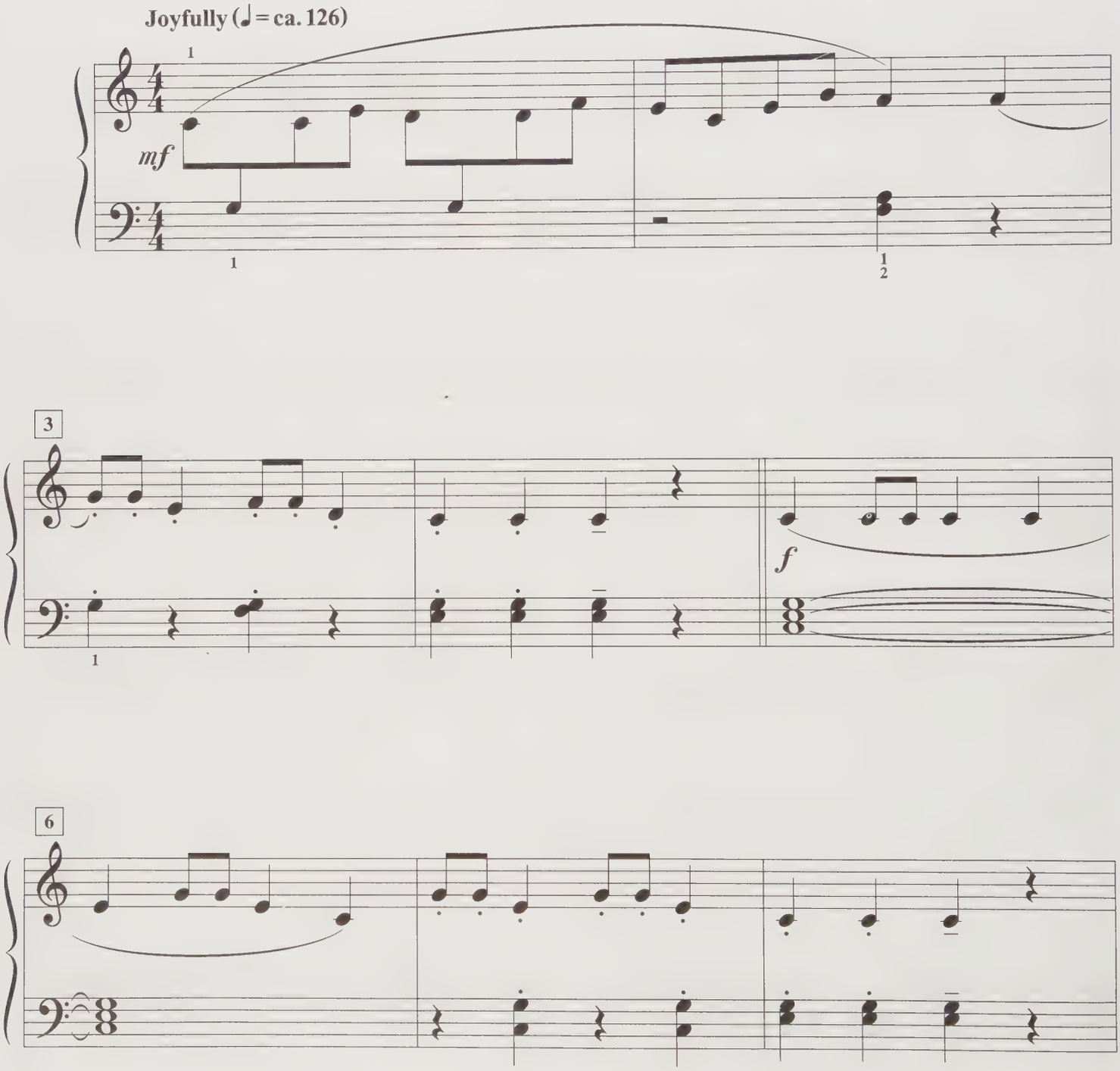


Three Bears

(Gom Saemari)

Many Korean children learn this song along with some rhythmic movement in kindergarten. The song describes a family of bears in which the daddy bear is chubby, the mommy bear is skinny, and the baby bear is cute.

Korean Children's Song



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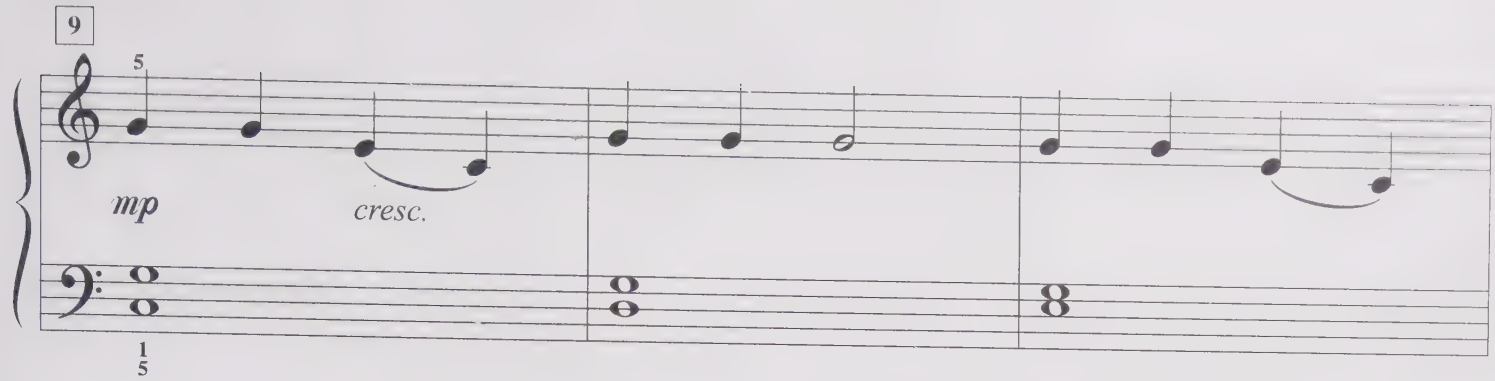
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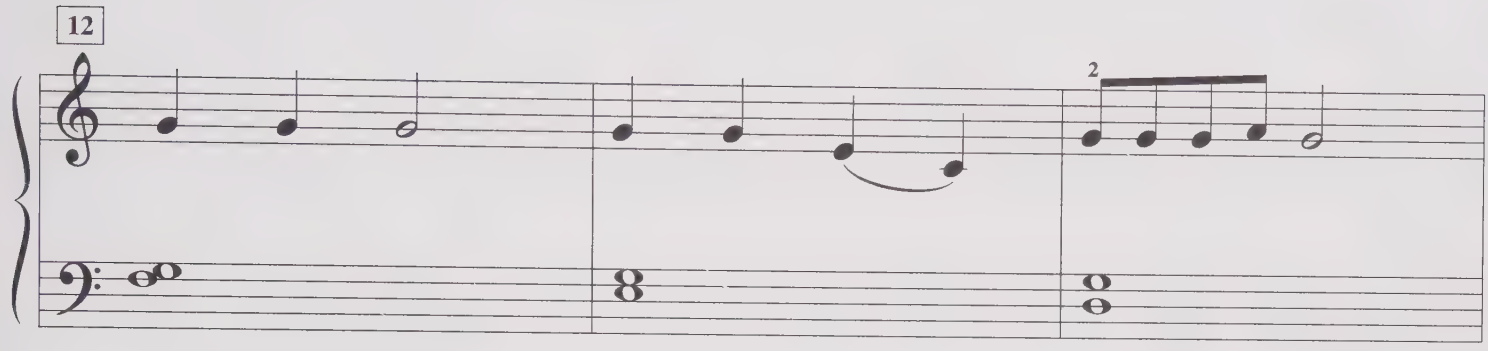
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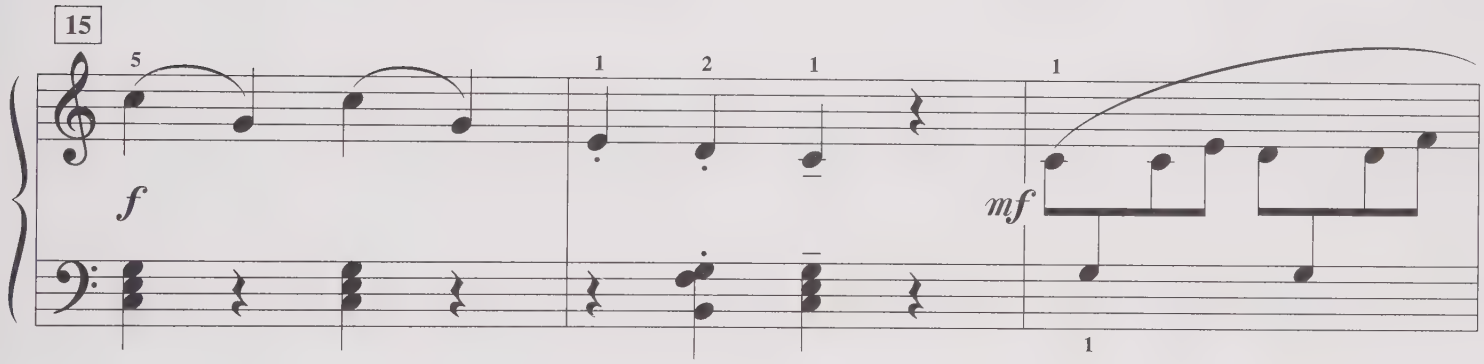
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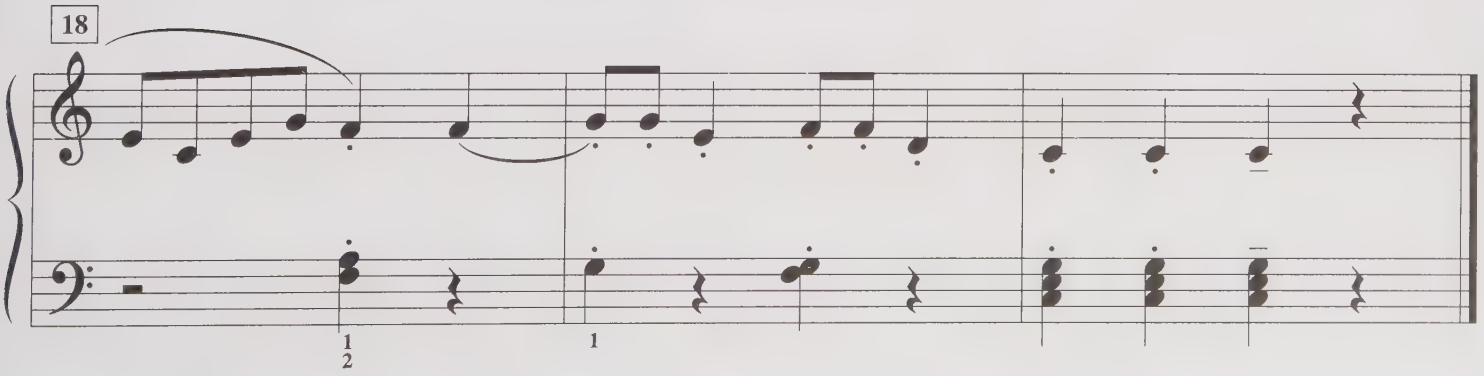
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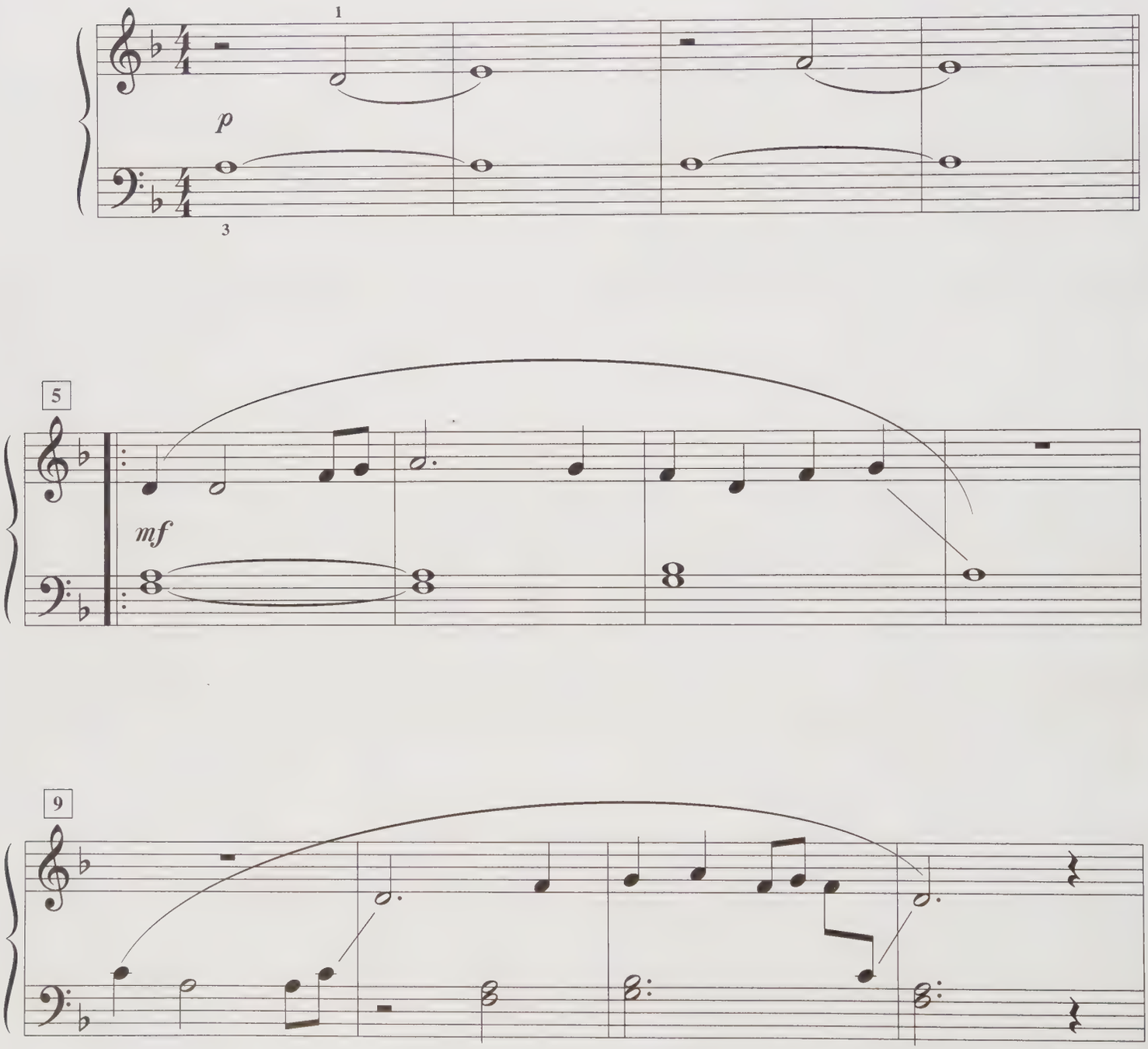
Farm Song of Heng Chun

*(Hing Tsun Ging Long Gwa)**

This song has no known title. The tune originated in Heng Chun (Forever Spring), a city in southern Taiwan. The lyrics describe the scenery on a farm: green fields, water buffalo, and young men and women at work. The singer is optimistic that this year will bring a great harvest.

Taiwanese Folk Song

With confidence (♩ = ca. 116)



* *Heng Chun Geng Nong Ge* in Mandarin.

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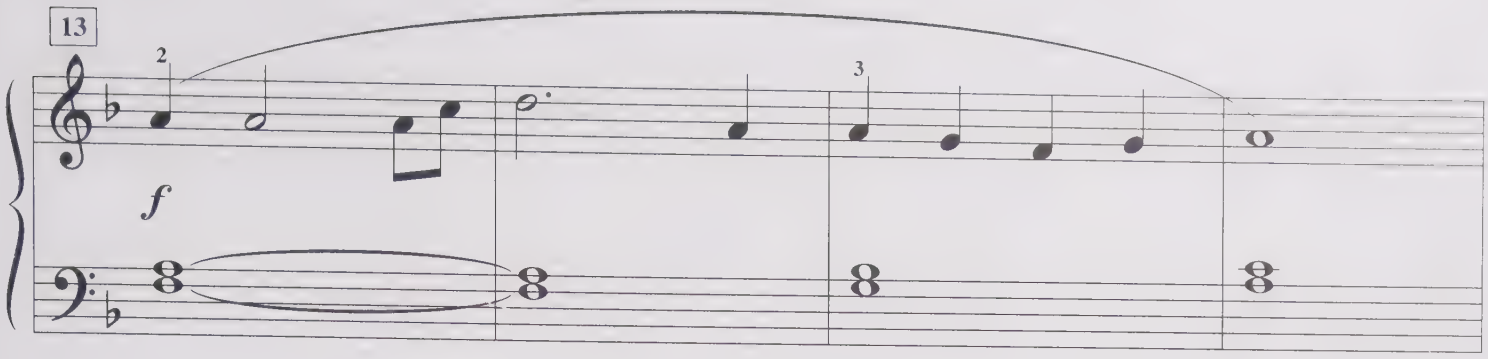
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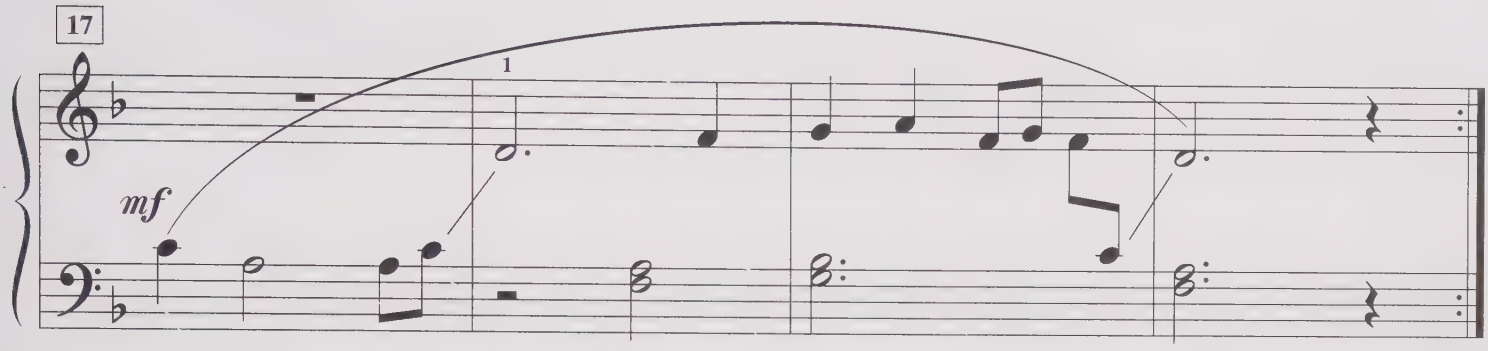
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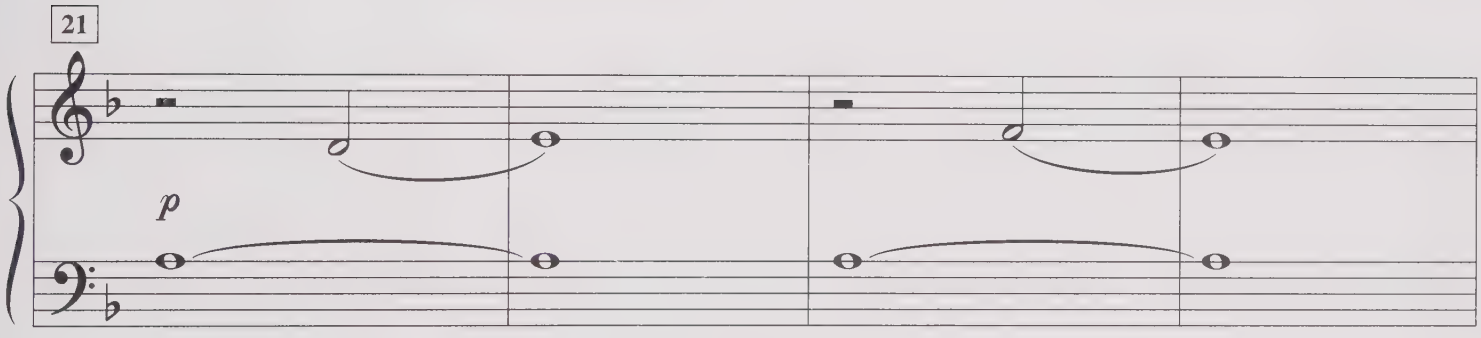
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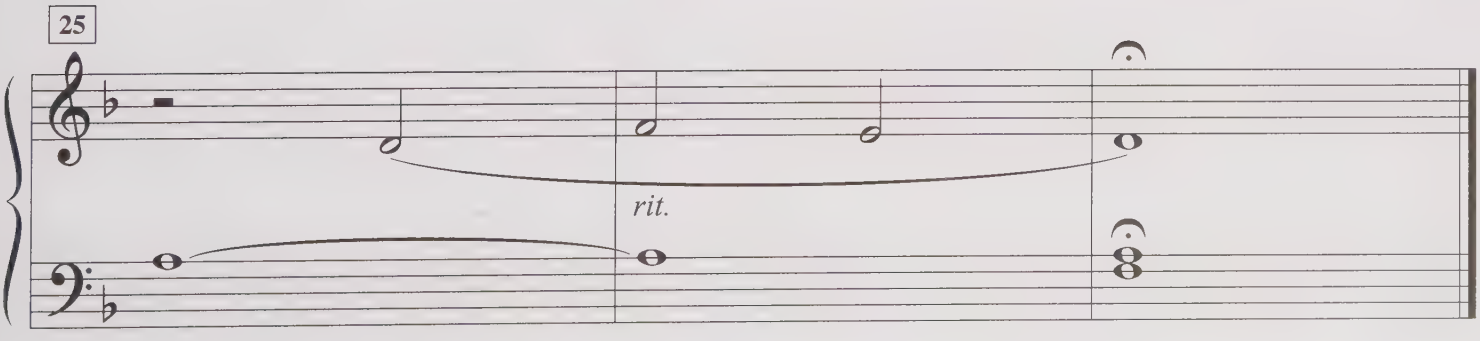

25
rit.

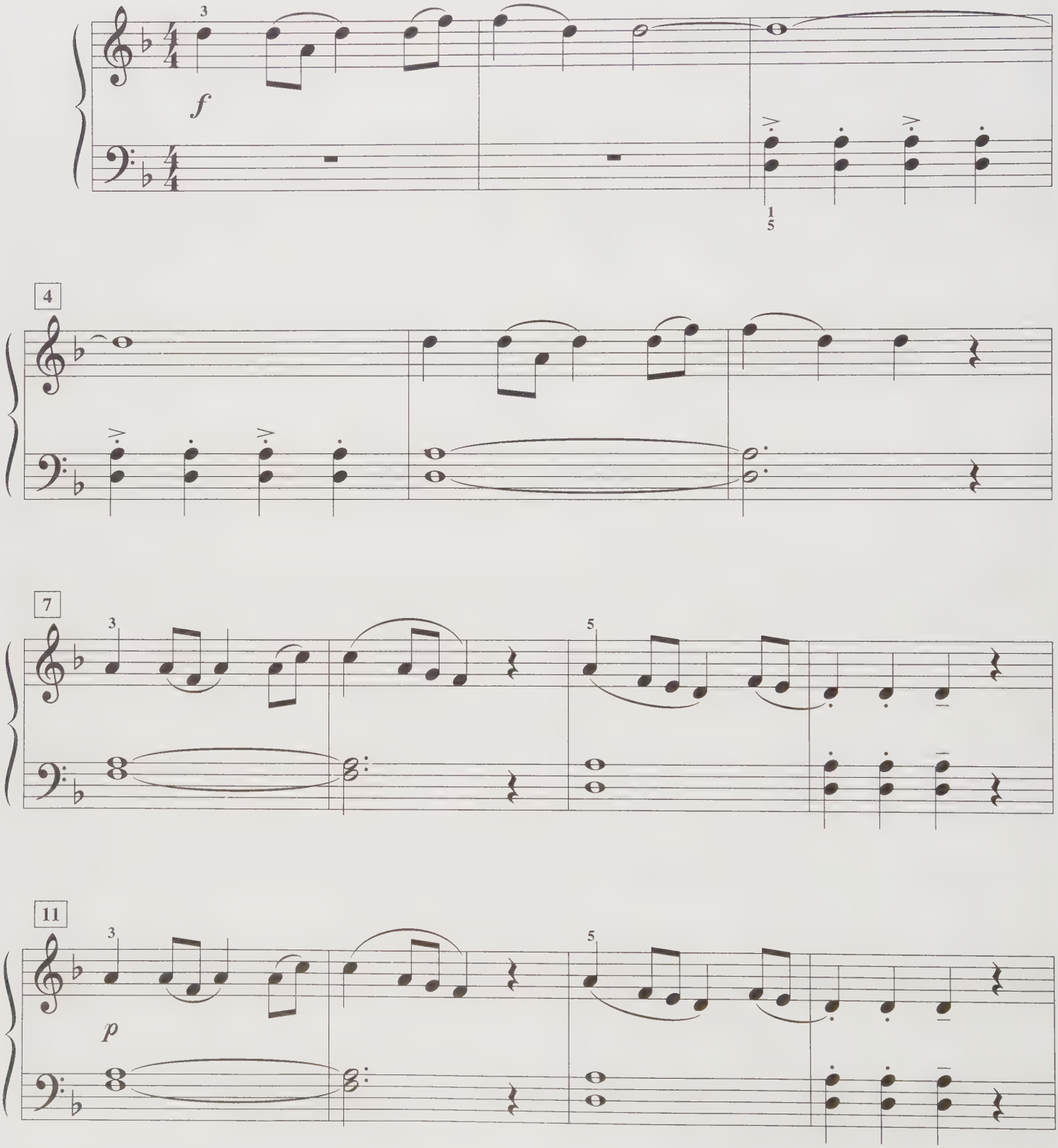
Dance of Joy and Happiness

*(Hwon Law Boo Kyo)**

The language of the aboriginal Taiwanese people is unique and very rarely do we find written translations. This folk song has been translated as "Dance of Joy and Happiness," as people often dance and look happy while they sing it.

Aboriginal Taiwanese Folk Song

With exuberance (♩ = ca. 132)



* *Huan Le Wu Qu* in Mandarin.

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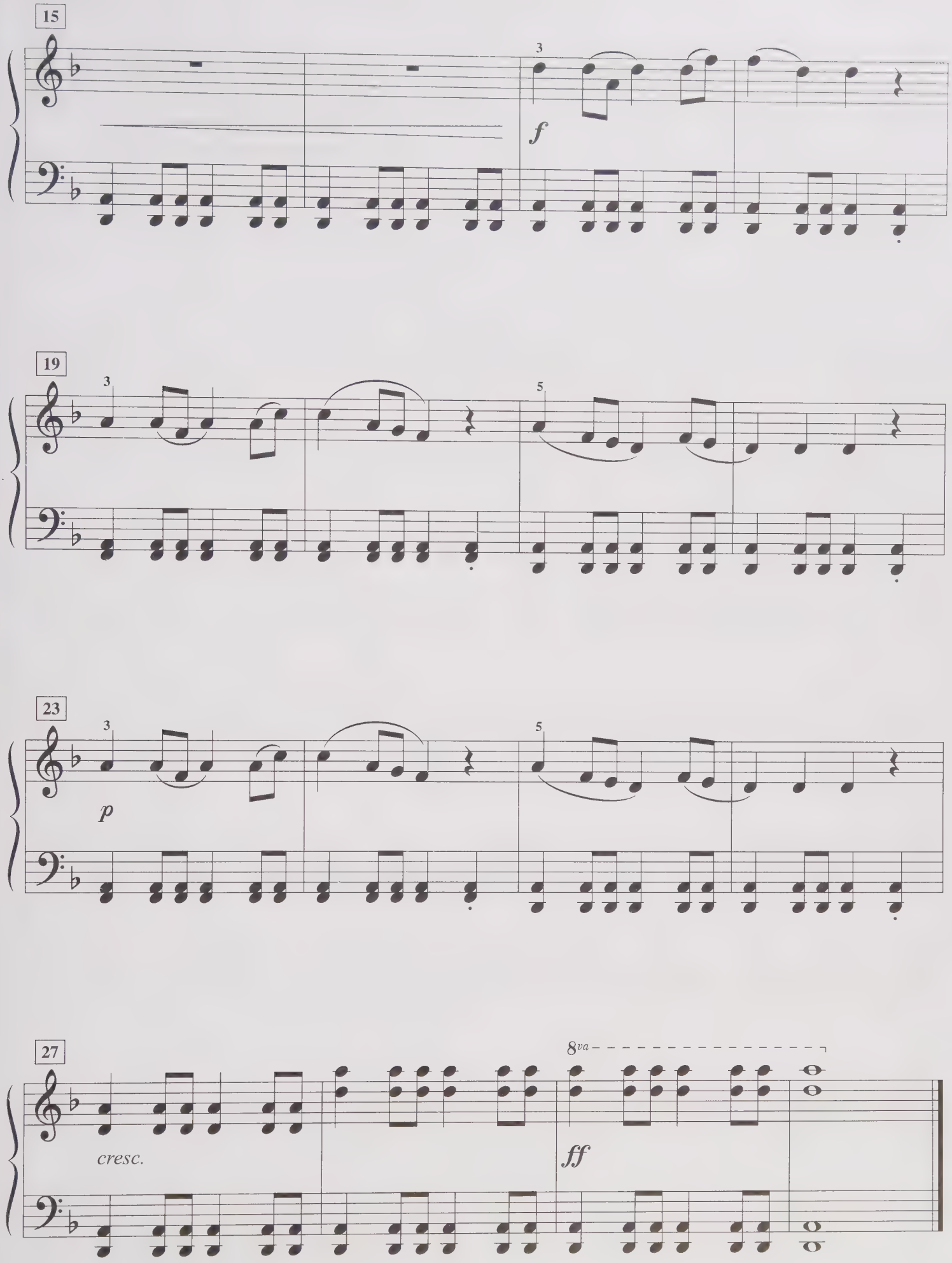
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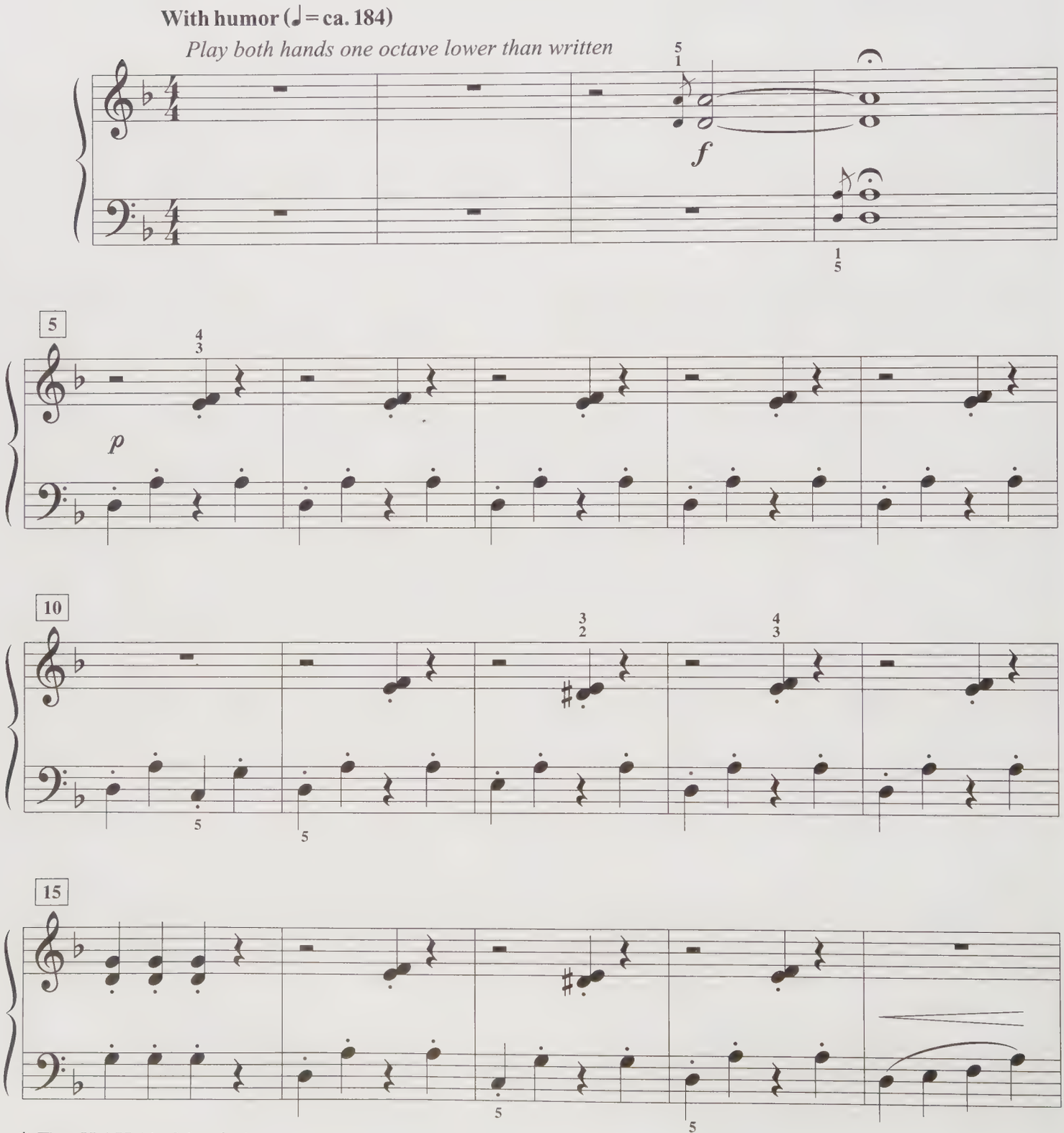
The Sky Is Dark

*(Ti O O)**

This is one of the first Taiwanese folk songs I learned to sing. The story goes like this: The sky is dark, it is about to rain, and an elderly man (a grandpa figure) tries to dig up taro roots with a hoe. Instead of taro, he catches a fish! How interesting! Grandpa wants to cook the fish with salt, but grandma wants it plain. They wrestle and accidentally break a pot. The music mimics the sounds of the pot breaking and the couple's laughter.

Secondo

Taiwanese Folk Song



* *Tian Hei Hei* in Mandarin

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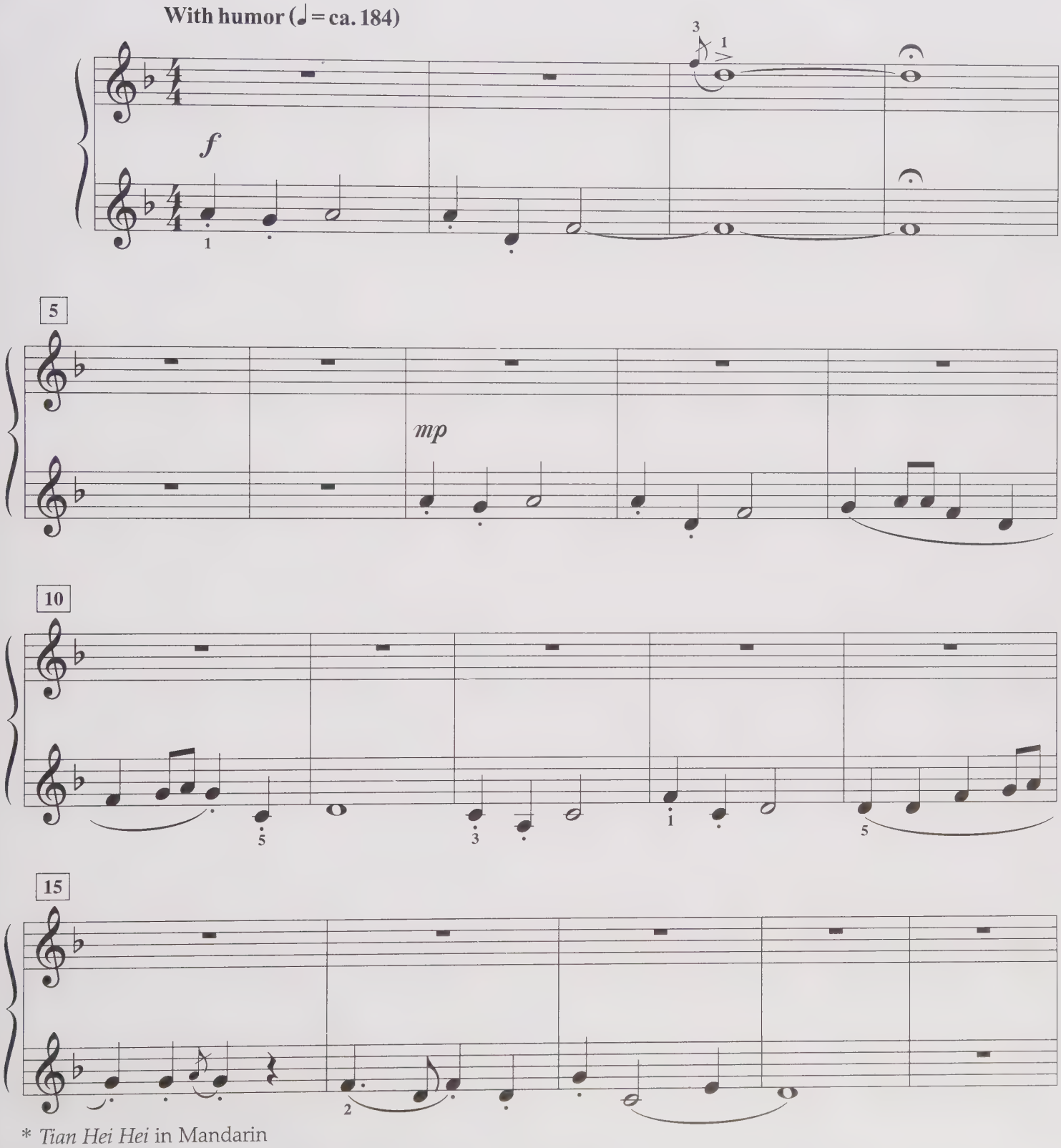
The Sky Is Dark

*(Ti O O)**

This is one of the first Taiwanese folk songs I learned to sing. The story goes like this: The sky is dark, it is about to rain, and an elderly man (a grandpa figure) tries to dig up taro roots with a hoe. Instead of taro, he catches a fish! How interesting! Grandpa wants to cook the fish with salt, but grandma wants it plain. They wrestle and accidentally break a pot. The music mimics the sounds of the pot breaking and the couple's laughter.

Primo

Taiwanese Folk Song



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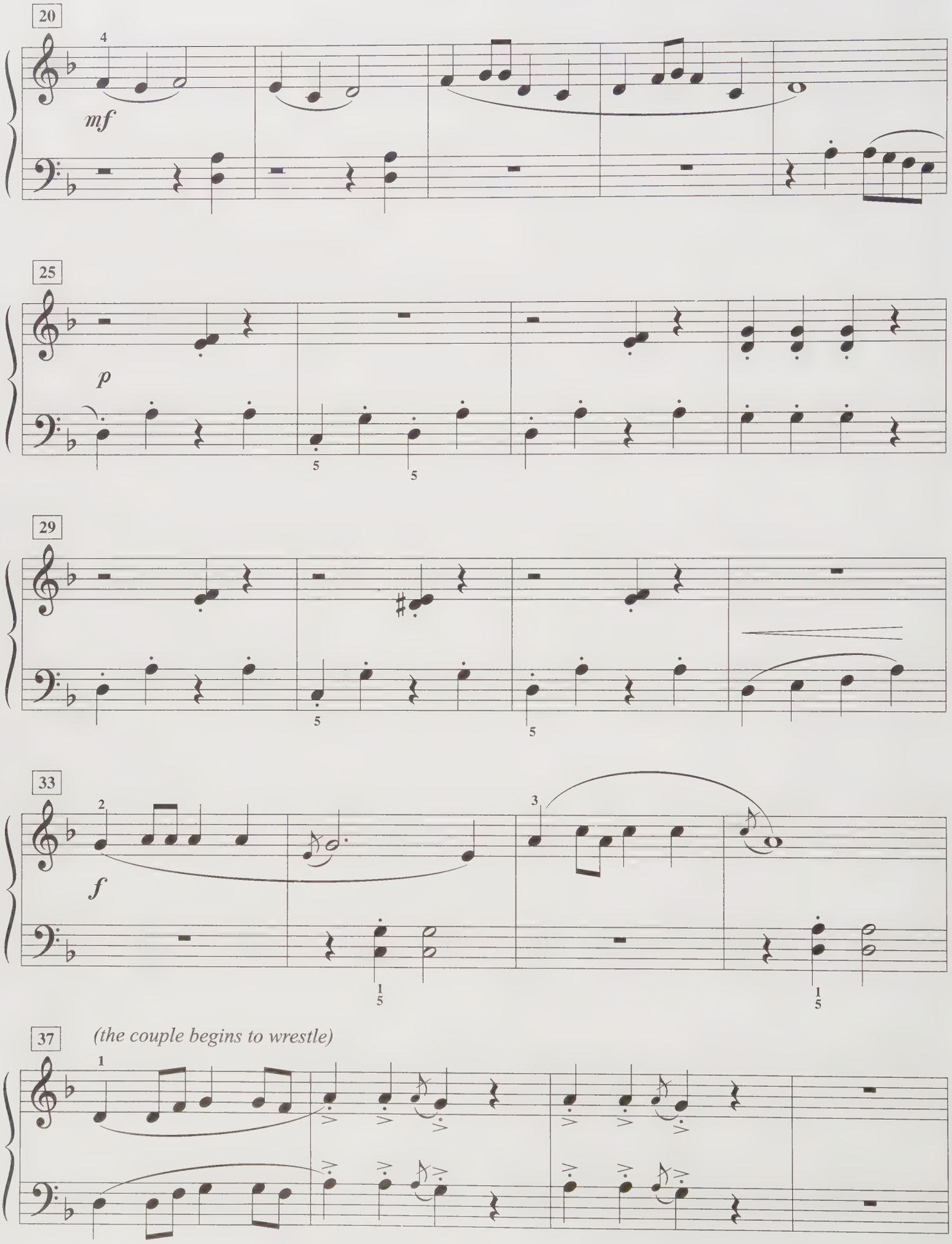
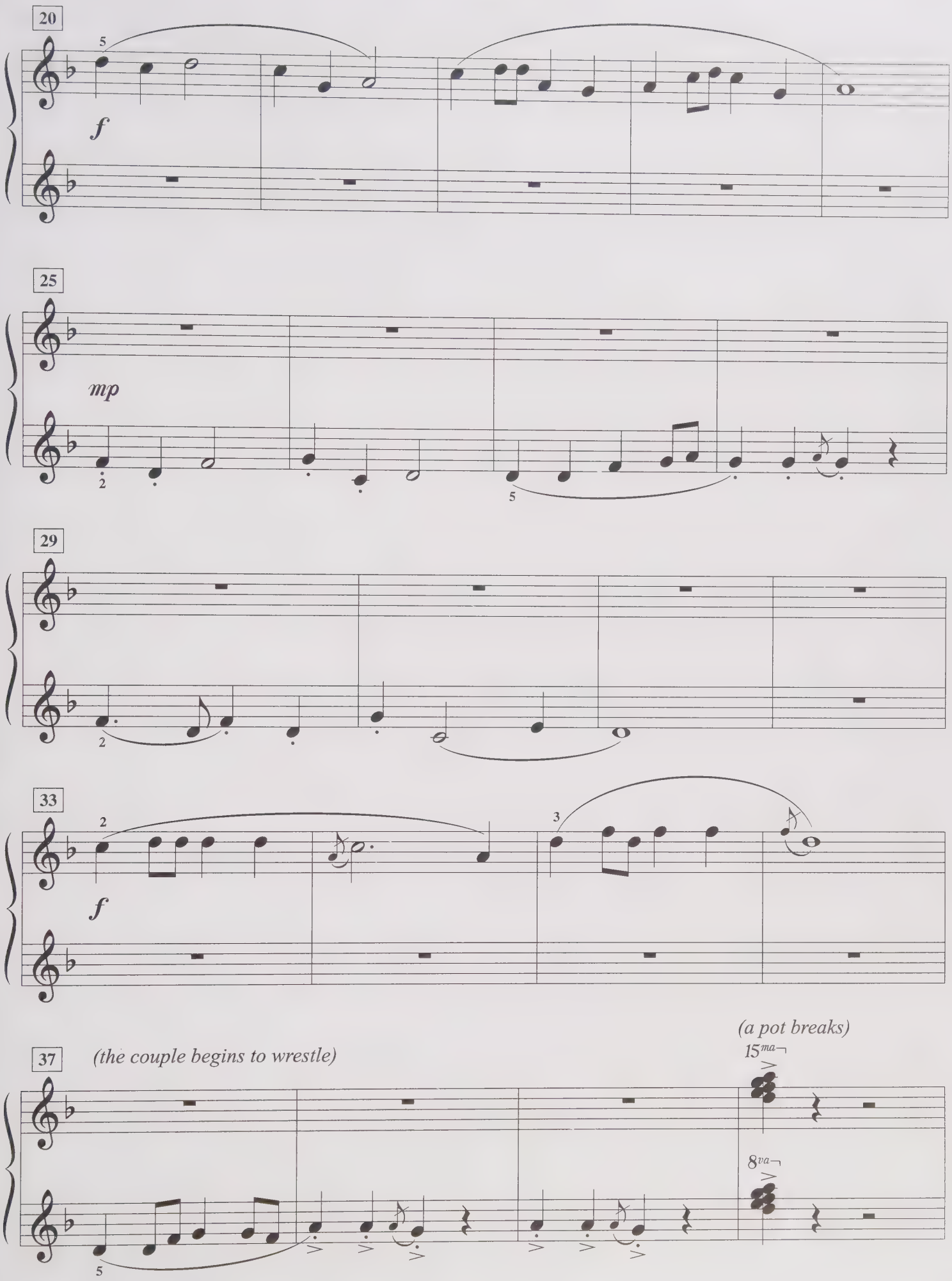
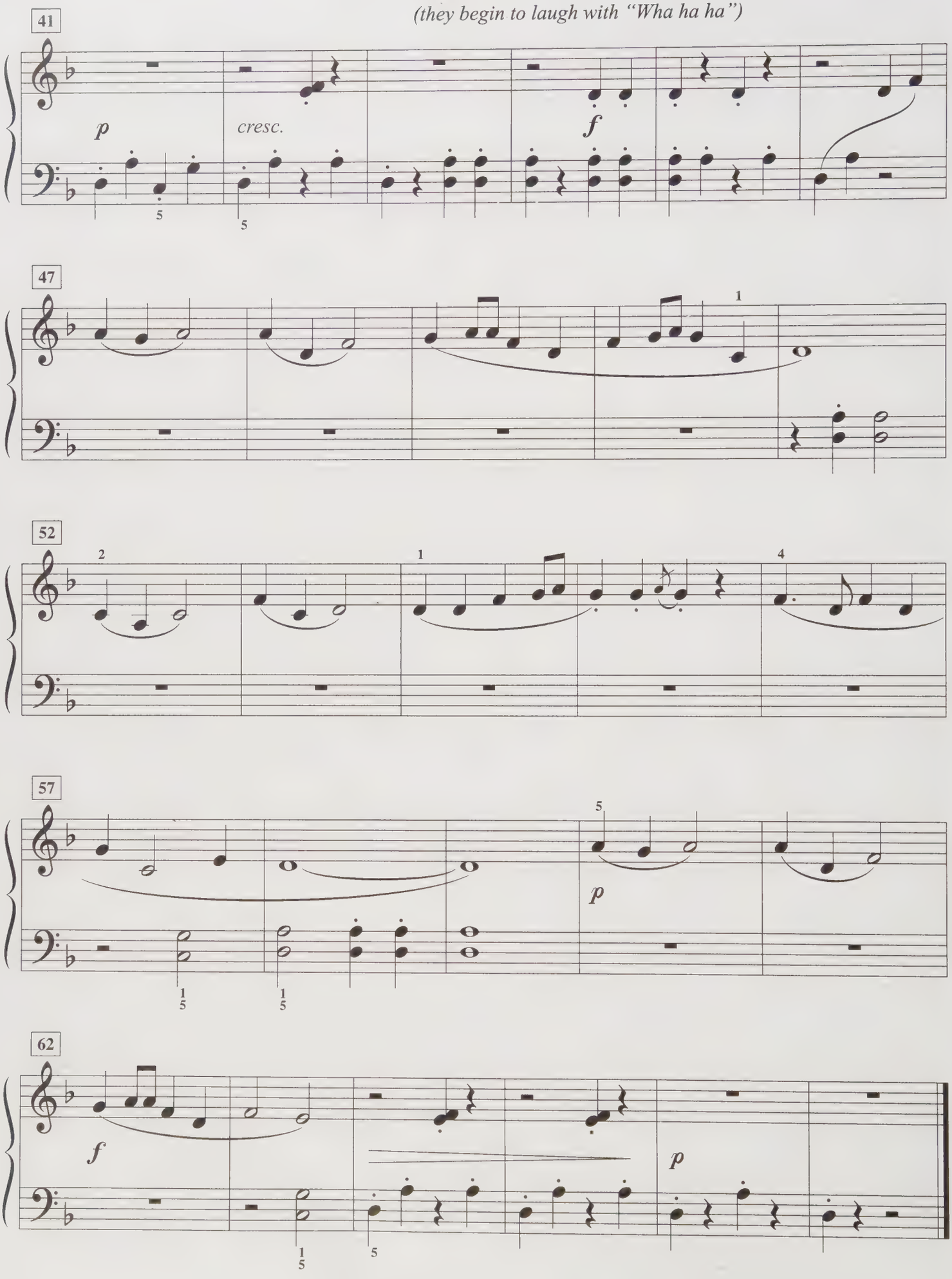
Secondo



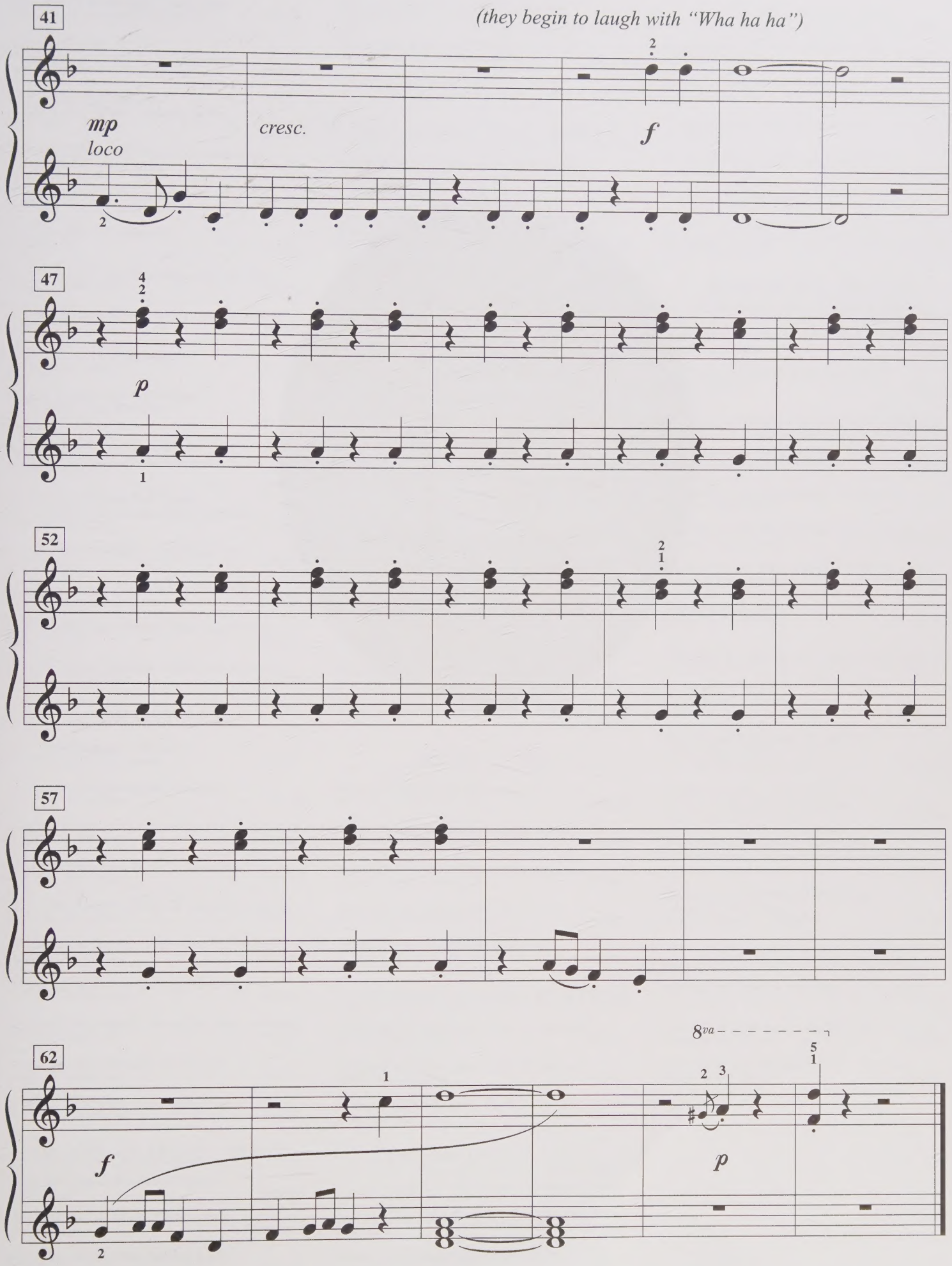
Primo


20
f
25
mp
29
33
f
37
(the couple begins to wrestle)
(a pot breaks)
15ma
8va

Secondo



Primo


41
(they begin to laugh with "Wha ha ha")
mp
loco
cresc.
f
47
p
52
57
62
8va
f
p

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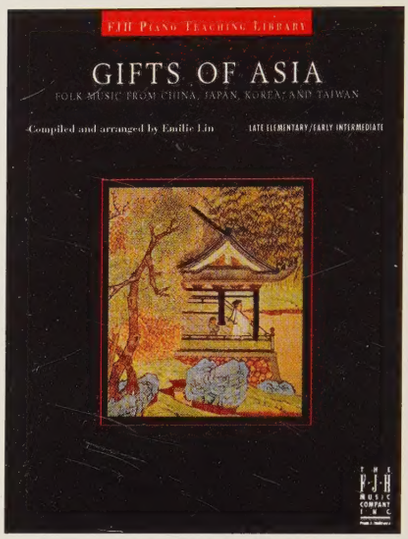

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